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Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2025 • \$4

## Trump in favor, but Johnson's bid unsure

Speaker seeks to sway GOP hard-liners ahead of Friday's vote for gavel

BY MARIANNE SOTOMAYOR

With less than 24 hours to go, Speaker Mike Johnson was still working to win over a handful of Republican lawmakers who are skeptical of his leadership, raising the prospect of a close and contentious vote Friday and increasing the risk that the intra-GOP battles that defined the 118th Congress will continue into the 119th.

Johnson (R-Louisiana) has spent the week working the phones and met with lawmakers in the Capitol through Thursday evening to try to better understand the concerns of roughly half a dozen hard-liners whose support he needs in the speakership election, which begins at noon.

Many of the skeptics come from the ultraconservative House Freedom Caucus, which has spent the past year pushing their leaders to curtail government spending, or else.

To win the gavel Friday, Johnson needs 218 votes if all House lawmakers are present and voting for a speaker candidate by name. Because of the resignation of Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Florida) last month, House Republicans will start the year with just 219 seats, meaning he can afford to lose just one GOP vote.

Rep. Thomas Massie (R-Kentucky) has said he'll definitely

SEE JOHNSON ON A4

## Biden's net neutrality rules are overturned

Internet service cannot be regulated in same way utilities can, court says

BY EVA DOU

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit struck down the FCC's net neutrality rules governing internet service providers Thursday in an early policy win for Republicans seeking to reverse Biden-era industry regulation.

Democrats at the Federal Communications Commission had considered the reinstatement of net neutrality a major accomplishment under the Biden administration. The reversal is a glimpse of the years ahead, during which President-elect Donald Trump's team has vowed to broadly undo his predecessor's regulation of private-sector companies.

The net neutrality issue revolves around how heavily federal regulators should control the companies that build and operate the internet. Democrats favor heavier oversight along the lines of how traditional telephone networks are regulated, while Republicans have argued for a lighter touch. Net neutrality was adopted by the FCC under the Obama administration, reversed under Trump, then reinstated under President Joe Biden.

SEE NET NEUTRALITY ON A14



ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/AFP/GTET IMAGES

Security was high outside the Superdome, where the Sugar Bowl took place Thursday evening after being postponed due to the attack.

## New Orleans driver likely acted alone

FBI says video shows Army veteran placing coolers with bombs nearby

BY JUSTIN JOUVENAL,  
LAUREN WEBER  
AND MARIA SACCHETTI

The Texas man who drove a pickup truck into a New Orleans crowd on New Year's Day, killing at least 14 people, likely acted alone and had pledged his support to the Islamic State militant group, the FBI said Thursday.

Investigators saw Shamsud-Din Jabbar, 42, an Army veteran, on surveillance video recorded before the attack placing coolers containing improvised explosive devices near the scene of the massacre that also injured at least 35. Christopher Raia, FBI deputy assistant director of counterintelligence, said at a news conference.

Officials have found no definitive link between the New Orleans attack and the explosion of

a Tesla Cybertruck outside a Trump hotel in Las Vegas on Wednesday that killed one person, Raia said. Officials also said there was no longer a threat to the public in New Orleans, where the Sugar Bowl was rescheduled after the attack for Thursday afternoon, instead of Wednesday.

The FBI initially said Wednesday that they thought Jabbar may have had accomplices, but after conducting interviews, examining his phone records and conducting other parts of the investigation, the bureau determined he probably acted alone.

"This was an act of terrorism," Raia said. "It was premeditated and an evil act."

Officials offered fresh details about the attack, which unfolded on the popular Bourbon

SEE DRIVER ON A6

Subdued by deadly terror, a city lets the good times roll once more

BY MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE,  
TIM CRAIG  
AND DANIELLE PAQUETTE

NEW ORLEANS — Since a terrorist attack killed at least 14 New Year's Eve revelers on Bourbon Street and injured dozens more, officials in this city rebuilt on tourism sought to assure the world that it was safe to attend the Sugar Bowl.

The annual college football showdown — postponed a day because of the tragedy — was expected to draw as many as 74,000 fans to the Caesar's Superdome on Thursday afternoon, and indeed, the stadium was filled with energy. There was no sign that, 36 hours earlier, leaders had clashed over the right time to resume athletic festivities.

"I am confident the city is

secure," said Louisiana Attorney General Liz Murrill, who had initially pushed for a lengthier delay. "It does reflect our commitment to not bowing to terrorism."

New Orleans, famous for its Mardi Gras celebrations, is known for its welcoming allure — and resilience. Fresh off the deadly devastation, that reputation shined through, with crowds flocking back to the storied French Quarter and trombone notes wafting through the cobblestone streets.

Locals and guests alike grappled with grief. Many, not all, said the heightened security on display made them feel safer.

As the game kicked off at 3 p.m., the message was clear: The party must go on, especially with beloved Mardi Gras parades

SEE SAFETY ON A5

Jenkins: No public gathering is safe, but we're braver than we realize. D1

## Tesla blast is called a suicide

UNKNOWN IF INTENT WAS TO KILL OTHERS

Sheriff says soldier shot himself before explosion

BY ALEX HORTON,  
JEREMY ROEBUCK,  
JENNIFER OLDHAM  
AND REIS THEBAULT

The Tesla Cybertruck that exploded in front of the Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas on Wednesday was part of an apparent suicide by an active-duty U.S. Army soldier, authorities said on Thursday, as the nation remained on edge after back-to-back incidents of violence involving vehicles.

The man behind the wheel of the futuristic electric vehicle shot himself in the head moments before the car blew up in the hotel's valet line, Las Vegas Sheriff Kevin McMahill said at a news conference. Officials recovered two partially melted semiautomatic firearms from the scene, one of which was found at the driver's feet, he said.

Authorities are seeking additional DNA confirmation of the driver's identity, which has been difficult to ascertain because his body was so badly burned in the blast, McMahill said, but they have substantial evidence that the man was 37-year-old Matthew

Livelesberger of Colorado Springs.

Livelesberger — whose passport, military ID, credit cards and cellphone were found in the truck — was on approved leave from his Special Forces unit in Germany at the time of his death, Army officials said.

Authorities said they were still investigating a possible motive behind the explosion, and they added that it was not clear whether the driver intended the explosion to be a larger attack that took lives beyond his own. At least seven other people were injured.

"I'm comfortable calling it a suicide with a bombing that occurred immediately thereafter,"

SEE LAS VEGAS ON A4

## Rebuilding the battle-torn faces — and lives — of Ukrainian troops

The wounds inflicted by Russian weapons resemble those of the two world wars, but treatment has improved dramatically



OKSANA PARAFENIUK FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Surgeons Tetiana Lytvynenko, far right, and Jorge Corona perform oculoplastic surgery on a soldier. Ukraine is seeing so many facial injuries that surgeons from abroad are offering help.

BY SIOBHÁN O'GRADY,  
KOSTIANTYN KHUDOV  
AND OKSANA PARAFENIUK

Russian weapons are destroying the faces of Ukraine's front-line troops.

Supersonic bullets and hails of shrapnel from artillery, glide bombs, drones and mines shatter soldiers' skulls and jawbones, tear out their eyes, and slash through their cheeks and mouths.

The scale of facial wounds is so severe that experts say it is reminiscent of last century's world wars, but the technology to treat them has advanced dramatically. Ukrainian doctors and foreign volunteers are building on surgical techniques developed more than 100 years ago.

It is not clear how many facial reconstruction surgeries have been carried out across Ukraine because the government does not disclose the toll of wounded soldiers. But Ukrainian surgeons say their schedules are packed with a constant flood of new patients, whose injuries often evoke shame

in themselves and horror to those around them. Procedures to repair their faces help them rejoin the world.

"Your face is your entryway to life," said Oleksandr Vasyliev, head of the maxillofacial surgery department at a Kyiv hospital, who treats many of the wounded.

One of his patients, Mykola Rudenok, and several other wounded soldiers receiving treatment in Kyiv allowed Washington Post reporters to observe their medical visits, including some surgeries. Such facial operations can often take 10 hours or more and require advanced 3D models to ensure accuracy.

Meanwhile, the waiting list is growing: Each time fighting at the front intensifies, hospitals become overwhelmed with new facial injuries. Human faces are so sensitive that patients often need multiple procedures over the course of a year or more.

Many of the wounded will never fully heal or look the same again.

SEE UKRAINE ON A11

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## Schumer endorses Wikler for DNC chair

BY PATRICK SVITEK

Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-New York) on Thursday endorsed Ben Wikler, chairman of the Wisconsin Democratic Party, to lead the national party, making Schumer the highest-ranking Democratic official to weigh in on the race so far.

"As one of the best state party chairs in the country, Ben possesses all the qualities Democrats across the country are looking for in our next DNC Chair," Schumer said in a statement. "He's a tenacious organizer — one of the best organizers in the country — a proven fundraiser, a sharp communicator, and able to reach out to all segments of the Democratic Party."

"Most importantly," Schumer added, "he knows how to win."

Members of the Democratic National Committee are set to pick the next chair in a Feb. 1 election. Wikler's opponents include Ken Martin, a DNC vice chair who leads the Minnesota party; Martin O'Malley, the former commissioner of the Social Security Administration and a former governor of Maryland; and James Skoufis, a New York state senator.

The leadership race comes as Democrats look to chart a path forward after their disappointing November election, when they lost the presidency and Senate majority. Schumer will be Senate minority leader when the new Congress begins Friday.

Wisconsin had more mixed results for Democrats in the Nov. 5 election. While their presidential nominee, Kamala Harris, lost the battleground state, Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D) survived her reelection bid against Republican businesswoman Eric Hovde.

The leadership race has featured little drama so far, but the



Ben Wikler

final month could bring more focus on the stakes. The DNC is hosting four candidate forums that are set to begin Thursday. Candidates have to qualify for the contests by submitting signatures from at least 40 DNC members by Jan. 25.

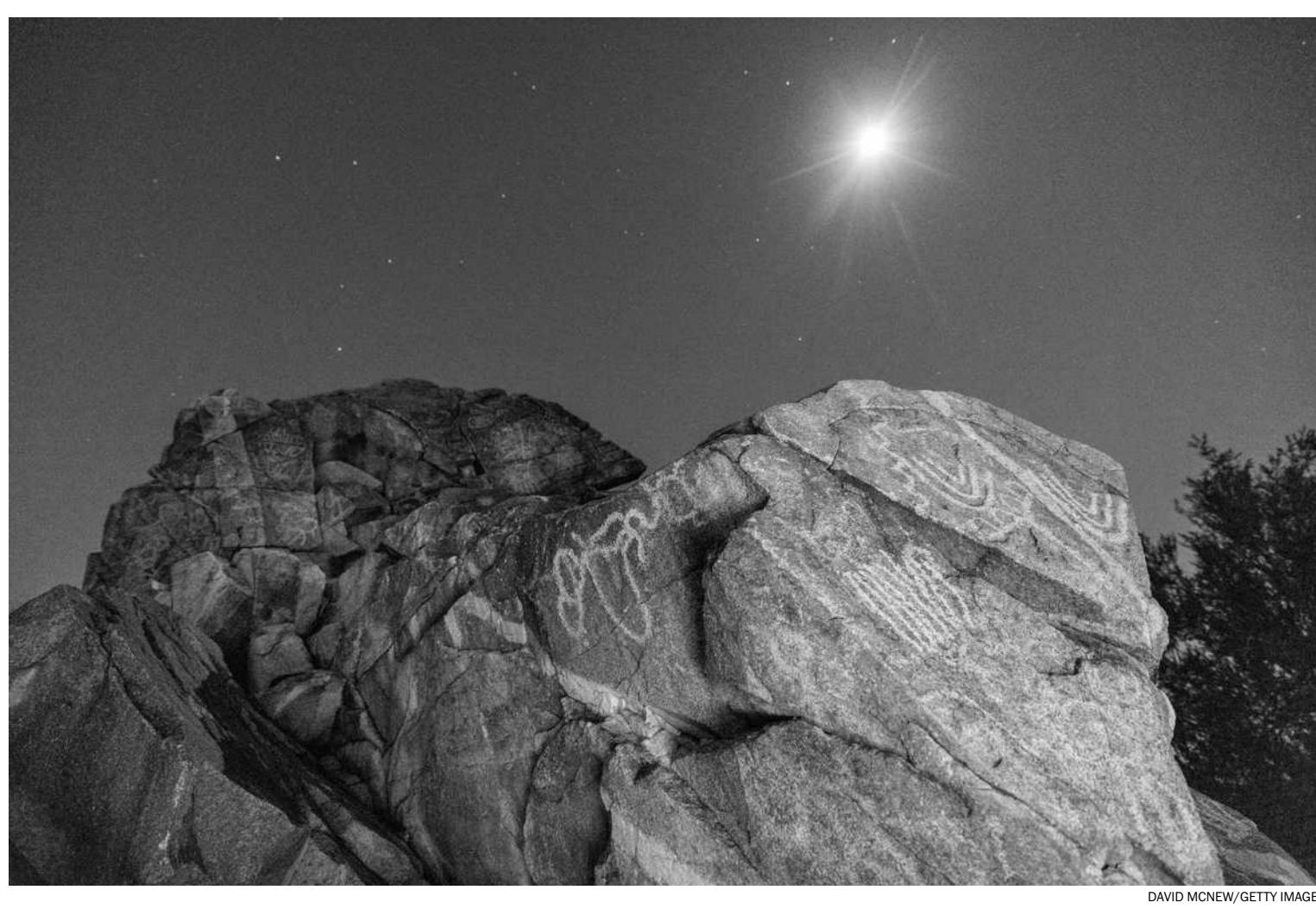
Martin is seen as one of the leading candidates, given his deep experience inside the party organization. In addition to chairing the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, he is president of the Association of State Democratic Committees.

Wikler has sought to show support for his campaign across the ideological spectrum. He has been endorsed by the centrist group Third Way and liberal organizations including the Progressive Change Campaign Committee.

In the Senate, some Democrats were already backing DNC chair candidates from their home states before Schumer made his choice. Baldwin has endorsed Wikler. Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minnesota) has backed Martin, and O'Malley has the support of Maryland's two Democratic senators, Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen, as well as Sen.-elect Angela Alsobrooks (D-Maryland).

Schumer has taken an interest in DNC chair elections before. After the 2016 election — when Trump won his first term in an upset — Schumer endorsed Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minnesota) to chair the DNC. Ellison lost the race to Labor Secretary Tom Perez and now serves as Minnesota attorney general.

Other candidates in the current DNC chair race include Robert Houton, a 2024 Senate candidate in Maryland; Jason Paul, a Democratic strategist from Massachusetts; Nate Snyder, a former official with the Department of Homeland Security; and Marianne Williamson, the self-help author and former presidential candidate.



DAVID MCNEW/GETTY IMAGES

Boulders covered in Indigenous rock art in the proposed Chuckwalla Mountains National Monument on April 18.

## Biden to create two monuments in California honoring Native tribes

BY MAXINE JOSELOW

President Joe Biden plans to create two new national monuments in California in the coming days, according to two people briefed on the announcement, aiming to cement his environmental legacy before President-elect Donald Trump takes office.

The two individuals spoke on the condition of anonymity because the announcement is not yet public.

Biden will sign a proclamation establishing the roughly 644,000-acre Chuckwalla National Monument in Southern California near Joshua Tree National Park, the people said. The move would bar drilling, mining, solar-energy farms and other industrial activity in the area. It also would honor the wishes of several Native American tribes that have revered the landscape for thousands of years, and would expand local Latino communities' access to outdoor recreation areas.

The president also will sign a proclamation creating the roughly 200,000-acre Sáttítlá National Monument in Northern California near the Oregon border, the people said. The Pit River Tribe has spearheaded the campaign to protect that area from energy development.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Biden has already used his executive authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to create six new national monuments and expand four others. After signing the proclamations, he will have protected more public lands than any other president in a single term, with the exception of Jimmy Carter.

Trump, in contrast, significantly shrank two national monuments in Utah during his first term. He slashed more than 1.9 million acres in total from the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments — known for their stunning desert vistas and wealth of Native American artifacts.

Three Democratic lawmakers from California — Rep. Raul Ruiz and Sens. Alex Padilla and Laphonza Butler — have introduced legislation to create the Chuckwalla National Monument. Padilla has also championed a bill to protect Sáttítlá.

But neither measure has advanced in the divided Congress. The Antiquities Act authorizes the president to protect lands and waters for the benefit of all Americans without congressional approval.



NICK KIRKPATRICK/THE WASHINGTON POST

People walk through Joshua Tree National Park, which Chuckwalla would be immediately southeast of if the monument is approved.

Jr., tribal council chairman of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. "It's the best way that we can protect our original homelands."

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, the first Indigenous Cabinet secretary, visited the site of the proposed Chuckwalla monument in May and hiked a popular trail called Painted Canyon. Interior officials then held a June public meeting on the proposal, where the vast majority of roughly 700 attendees voiced support for the idea.

Several supporters noted that Chuckwalla would provide one of the few outdoor recreation areas accessible to poor and Latino neighborhoods in the Coachella Valley besides Joshua Tree.

"This would serve as an opportunity to close the nature gap particularly affecting communities of color and low-income communities," said Jazari Taylor, a policy advocate at the group Latino Outdoors.

The Chuckwalla National Monument will be named after the chuckwalla lizards that roam the junction of the Mojave, Sonoran and Colorado deserts. The region is also home to bighorn sheep, desert tortoises and iconic bird species such as golden eagles and greater roadrunners.

Chuckwalla would be immediately southeast of Joshua Tree National Park, which ranked as the ninth most-visited national park in 2023, attracting more than 3.2 million people that year, according to the National Park Service.

The area is part of the ancestral homelands of several Indigenous peoples, including the Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Mohave, Quechan and Serrano tribes. The Quechan people say their ancestors emerged from a sacred mountain in Nevada — Avi Kwa Ame, which Biden designated as a monument in 2022 — and then migrated through this stretch of desert, dropping pottery shards as trail markers and leaving petroglyphs as guidance for future generations.

"If someone went and bulldozed the Vatican, that would be the equivalent of desecrating this desert for us," said Donald Medart, a council member of the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe.

For the Cahuilla people, the reddish hue of the rocks and mountains comes from the blood of Mukat, the Cahuilla creator god who was exiled to this area. They say that when Mukat died, his remains became vegetation to sustain his people, including mesquite trees whose beans can be cooked or ground into flour.

A monument designation "would be a hugely significant milestone," said Thomas Tortez

promising to boost fossil fuels.

In particular, Sáttítlá could prevent the development of proposed geothermal energy plants, which generate electricity by harnessing the heat trapped deep beneath the Earth's surface. In the process, they produce far fewer planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions than coal or natural gas plants.

Bamford said the Pit River Tribe supports clean energy — just not on this land.

"We're not against clean energy in any way — it's just that clean energy and sacred sites don't mix," he said. "If these projects were proposed in a different area that was less impactful, then that is a discussion we would have."

Some local officials worry that Chuckwalla, for its part, could quash solar development in one of the country's sunniest locales.

Officials in Blythe, Calif., a city of roughly 18,000 people east of Joshua Tree, issued a June press release opposing Chuckwalla's proposed boundaries. They called for redrawing the monument map to exclude tens of thousands of acres on either side of the city.

"We're in the Sonoran Desert, one of the hottest and sunniest places in the United States," Blythe Vice Mayor Johnny Rodriguez said in an interview. "We need green energy for our state, and this would be the natural place for it."

Blythe Mayor Joseph DeConinck added that "if this becomes a monument, there's going to be more restrictions, more rules."

Such concerns point to a tension between two of Biden's environmental priorities: protecting public lands and speeding the nation's transition to green energy. But supporters of Chuckwalla contend it would complement — not clash with — solar development in the desert.

Supporters note that in 2016, federal and state agencies adopted the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan, which designated areas suitable for development as well as places that should be protected for their biological, cultural and recreational values. They say the monument map was drawn to avoid nearly 400,000 acres that could host sprawling solar farms.

"The monument does not overlap with any of the development areas for solar; it fits right around them like a puzzle piece," said Stephanie Dashiell, an environmental consultant who works with a coalition of nonprofit groups supporting Chuckwalla.

Dashiell added that the coalition has done "extensive outreach" to Blythe officials and has garnered "overwhelming support from municipalities other than Blythe."

Aaron Weiss, deputy director of the Center for Western Priorities, a conservation group, said 98.5 percent of the monument would cover areas that the plan already designated for conservation. The remaining 1.5 percent of the land has no current designation.

"There was a long, multiyear process of getting all of the stakeholders at the table to come up with a long-term plan for the California desert, including conservation and renewable energy," Weiss said. "And the proposed maps for the Chuckwalla monument are a reflection of that."

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But neither measure has advanced in the divided Congress. The Antiquities Act authorizes the president to protect lands and waters for the benefit of all Americans without congressional approval.

### A hugely significant milestone'

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Some critics, however, warn that the two monuments could stifle clean-energy development, undercutting Biden's own ambitious climate agenda as Trump is



## Johnson has Trump endorsement but is still trying to win over GOP skeptics

JOHNSON FROM A1

vote against Johnson, so the speaker would need every other Republican vote.

If Johnson cannot get the necessary votes, the House keeps voting until a speaker is elected because, without one, lawmakers cannot be sworn in to begin voting.

In a Fox News interview Thursday, Johnson said conversations have focused on "process reforms in the House." Two people familiar with the discussions, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to outline private, ongoing negotiations, said the speaker was referencing efforts to ensure House Republicans can quickly pass conservative legislation while also cutting spending.

After meeting with holdouts Thursday afternoon, Johnson predicted again on Fox that he would receive "maybe one 'no' vote" and remained "hopeful" that he can win back the gavel on the first round of voting.

President-elect Donald Trump this week threw his weight behind Johnson, arguing he is best equipped to implement conservative reforms.

Ahead of his New Year's Eve party at his Mar-a-Lago Club, Trump told reporters he believes the holdouts will ultimately support Johnson because he is the only House Republican who can clinch enough votes to win the gavel.

"He's the one who can win right now. People like him. Almost everybody likes him," Trump said. Though there are others who would be "very good," he added, "they have 30 or 40 people that don't like them, so that's pretty tough," he said, with-



To retain the gavel, Speaker Mike Johnson needs 218 votes if all House lawmakers are present and voting for a speaker candidate by name.

out naming names.

Asked if he was calling to pressure the holdouts, Trump said he would, if necessary, but that he believes Johnson has the votes. "Really we're going to have a great time and get a successful vote. [Johnson's] a good man, he's a very wonderful person and

that's what you need."

Trump's endorsement earlier this week seemed to sway some lawmakers. Rep. Josh Brecheen (R-Oklahoma), who voted against Johnson's stopgap funding bill last month, posted after Trump's endorsement that he believes Johnson and Trump "are

the winning combination to deliver results within our window of opportunity."

But other members of the House Freedom Caucus remained undecided about whether to support Johnson. They want to know how Johnson will cut spending while also pushing for

ward Trump's agenda.

Rep. Chip Roy (R-Texas), a key holdout who has been in conversations for several weeks about possibly replacing Johnson, said Wednesday that Johnson's mishandling of the latest government funding bill cannot happen again. "The reason I am still

undecided on the Speaker vote (as opposed to hard no) is it's not ALL the fault of @SpeakerJohnson & my desire is to give him grace & @realDonaldTrump room to deliver on a strong agenda for which we were elected. But something MUST change," he wrote.

Congress must first address the debt ceiling, which could require the federal government to take "extraordinary measures" if it is not lifted as soon as Jan. 14, according to Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen.

Shortly after Trump's inauguration on Jan. 20, the incoming administration wants the GOP-led Congress to pass policies addressing border security and energy-related reforms before working on reauthorizing Trump's 2017 tax law.

Johnson and his leadership team released a 32-page document on New Year's Day that outlines their legislative priorities and how the chamber should operate. While all 12 bills expected to be passed in the coming weeks are core conservative priorities Republicans campaigned on, they do not address all of Trump's agenda.

Johnson and his allies argue that getting all that done will be possible only if the party sticks together, starting with unifying around reelecting him as speaker.

"As the Republican leadership in Congress, we have prepared an aggressive plan to remove any roadblocks and provide a glide-path for President Trump's reforms and policy agenda," Johnson and three of his deputies wrote in a joint op-ed Wednesday. "To implement that vision, we must remain united."

## Sheriff calls Cybertruck explosion outside Trump's Las Vegas hotel a suicide

LAS VEGAS FROM A1

McMahill said, "I'm not giving it any other labels."

The circumstances of the explosion — which occurred feet from President-elect Donald Trump's hotel inside of a distinctive car manufactured by one of Trump's leading supporters, Tesla CEO Elon Musk — raise concerns that it was ideologically motivated, said Spencer Evans of the FBI's Las Vegas division. But officials have not yet found any evidence that suggests such a rationale, he said.

"It's not lost on us that it's in front of the Trump building, that it's a Tesla vehicle," Evans said at the Thursday news conference. "But we don't have information at this point that definitively tells us or suggests it was because of this particular ideology or any of the reasoning behind it."

The Las Vegas explosion unfolded just hours after a deadly rampage in New Orleans that killed 14 New Year's revelers and left dozens more injured. The two incidents, and the men suspected of carrying them out, bear striking — if superficial — similarities.

Both used vehicles hired through the car rental app Turo. In New Orleans, the attacker drove a rented pickup into a crowd on Bourbon Street before he was killed in a shootout with police.

That suspect, identified as 42-year-old Shamsud-Din Jabbar, had also served in the Army. Like Livesberger, Jabbar was at one point stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, now named Fort Liberty. Both deployed to Afghanistan in 2009, though in separate units.

Unlike Livesberger, Jabbar had been discharged years before the attack. There is no evidence the two men knew each other or even crossed paths during their military years, authorities said. The FBI maintained they had not discovered anything that suggested the two incidents were connected.

Defense officials compared the service records of Jabbar and Livesberger "side by side" and found no connection between the two, a military official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the ongoing investigation.

Still, the resemblances will be the subject of continued probing, said McMahill, the Las Vegas sheriff.

"If these turn out to be simply similarities, [they're] very



strange similarities to have," he said. "And so we're not prepared to rule in or rule out anything at this point."

According to a timeline authorities laid out on Thursday, Livesberger rented the Cybertruck in Denver on Dec. 28, then cut a circuitous path to Las Vegas over the next several days, driving south to Albuquerque, then west through Arizona before arriving in Nevada. On Dec. 30 he stopped along the way to legally purchase the two firearms.

Las Vegas surveillance footage first captured the truck around 7:30 a.m. on New Year's Day. Livesberger drove around the city for about an hour before pulling into the Trump hotel's valet station about 8:40 a.m. The car exploded 17 seconds later.

The car was filled with large fireworks and fuel, officials said, and the FBI is looking into the incident through its Joint Terrorism Task Force, though they have not so far identified any link to international terror groups.

Musk has been directly assisting the inquiry, sharing location data and video footage from Tesla



FROM TOP: Investigators search the garbage in northeastern Colorado Springs as part of the investigation connected to the Cybertruck explosion. Items found inside the Cybertruck that exploded outside the Trump hotel in Las Vegas.

charging stations that helped police outline the Cybertruck's journey to Las Vegas. A team from Tesla was expected to arrive on Thursday to help authorities recover video footage from inside the car, McMahill said.

Any additional video may help investigators uncover a possible motive. Several pieces of explosive material found in the truck

had not exploded, McMahill said, adding that the blast may not have gone as planned.

"It didn't even damage the glass doors" of the hotel, he said. "I just don't think it was done as well as he was expecting it to be done."

Despite Livesberger's military experience, the explosive devices were not very sophisticated, said

Kenneth Cooper of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, which is also investigating the incident.

Most of the material found inside the truck were consumer products readily available at sporting goods stores, Cooper said.

Soldiers who knew Livesberger were left asking similar questions as news of the explosion spread. One former Special Forces officer who served with him said he would have had the skills and experience to produce a larger and more deadly explosion if he had wanted.

The former officer, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of his current work in the U.S. government, said he and others who served with the suspect were shocked. He described Livesberger as warm and caring.

"It's really hard right now," he said, "because it doesn't align with the Matt I know."

Livesberger enlisted in 2006, serving short stints in the National Guard and Army Reserve. In late 2012, he reentered active duty to serve in Special Operations, the Army said, achieving

the senior noncommissioned officer rank of master sergeant.

He was assigned to the 10th Special Forces Group, headquartered at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs, most recently as a Special Forces operations sergeant, the Army said. He was on leave from an assignment in Stuttgart, Germany, at the time of his death, officials have said.

Livesberger served on multiple deployments to Afghanistan, the Army said, and his awards indicate extensive combat experience. He was awarded a Bronze Star with valor and an Army Commendation Medal with valor, the Army said, both of which are given for courageous acts on the battlefield. His five Army Good Conduct medals indicate long periods of unblemished service.

On Thursday, the police investigation into Livesberger expanded and authorities descended on a Colorado Springs residence they said was connected to the incident. The FBI, which appeared to be leading the inquiry, did not say who lived there or what drew agents to that location.

A half-dozen investigators from the local police department and the FBI were clustered in a tight circle outside a three-story apartment complex on Thursday. Yellow police tape blocked off the entrance to one of the building's parking lots. Officers carried several small boxes out of one of the units and loaded them into a truck.

A Colorado Springs police officer declined to comment on their findings. The complex is home to dozens of units on the northeast side of Colorado's second-largest city.

One resident of the complex, Cindy Helwig, said she often saw Livesberger walking his dog in the neighborhood. About two weeks ago, she said, he asked to borrow a tool he said he needed to fix his car. He had recently sold his Mustang, she added.

The community is a mix of renters and homeowners, Helwig said, and residents keep to themselves — neighbors usually close their garage doors as soon as they come home from work. Helwig said she would often see Livesberger bringing boxes into his home.

"To be honest," she said, "I feel unsafe right now. And a little uneasy."

Perry Stein, Trisha Thadani and Julian Mark contributed to this report.



## Retropolis

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*The Washington Post*



S0129-615

# Postponed Sugar Bowl goes on amid heightened security

## SAFETY FROM A1

starting next week.

The FBI now says there is "no evidence" that Shamsud-Din Jabbar plotted his rampage with any accomplices.

Police killed the 42-year-old Army veteran from Texas in a flurry of gunfire after he plowed a pickup truck through several crowded blocks three hours into 2025, turning holiday merriment into carnage.

Investigators later found an Islamic State flag in his rental vehicle, and FBI agents recovered multiple homemade bombs in coolers near the scene on Bourbon Street.

Jabbar had been "inspired by" the Islamic State terrorist network, President Joe Biden said in a Wednesday address from Camp David.

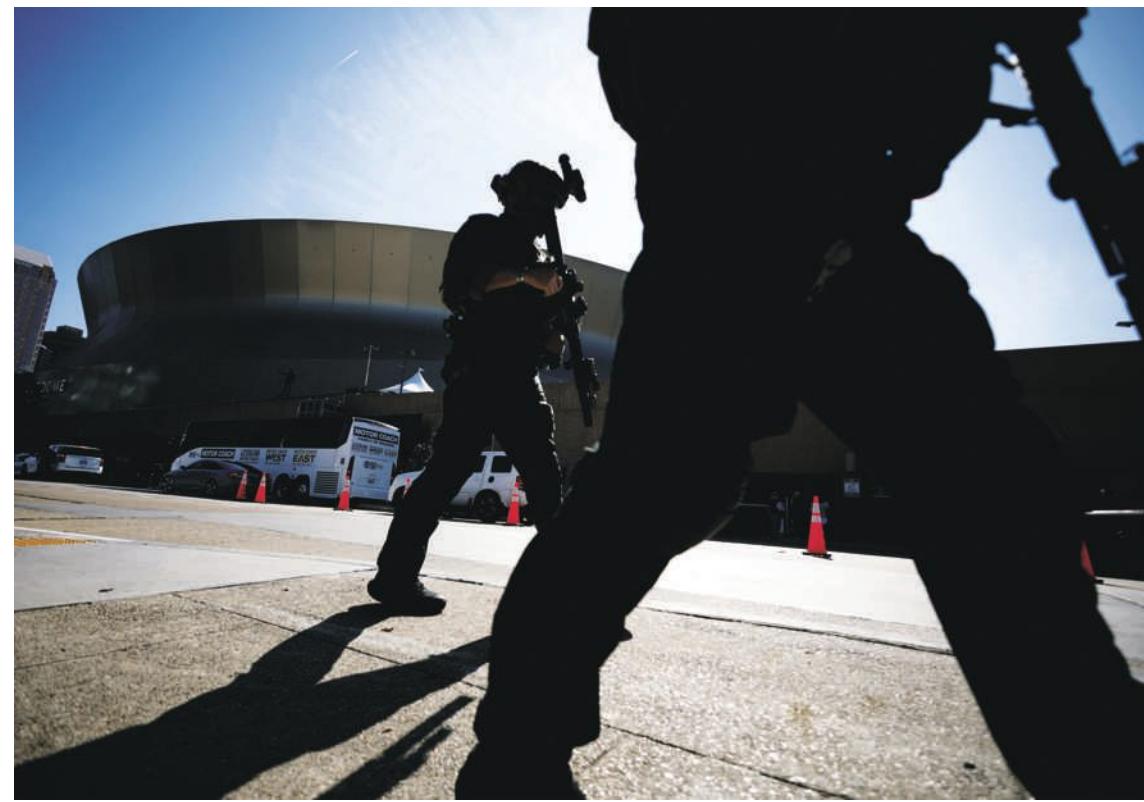
At the time of the attack, the safety barriers that normally shielded Bourbon Street were being renovated as part of preparations for the Super Bowl in February — another tourist draw intended to nourish New Orleans' visitor-heavy economy. Police cruisers stationed to bolster that vulnerability on Wednesday ultimately failed: Jabbar swerved around them onto the sidewalk.

The city supercharged security ahead of Thursday's big match, with officers sealing off access points to the stadium, cranking up surveillance and deploying hundreds of additional boots on the ground, including members of the National Guard. Bourbon and adjacent blocks reopened with new metal barriers in the street and on sidewalks.

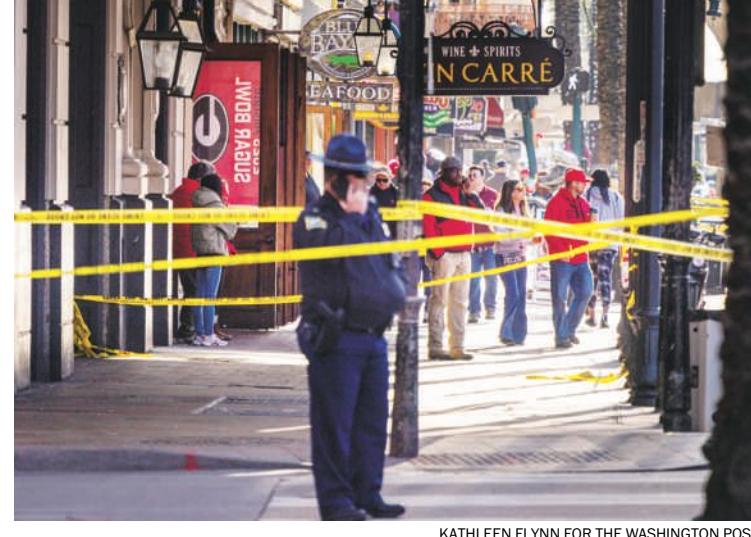
To some, carrying on was symbolic. The Superdome famously sheltered displaced residents during the horrific aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"This city knows pain," New Orleans Police Superintendent Anne Kirkpatrick said. "But this city also knows recovery."

As part of the investigation, law enforcement officials said the FBI is reviewing hundreds of hours of video recordings and sifting through more than 400



SEAN GARDNER/GETTY IMAGES



KATHLEEN FLYNN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

TOP: Law enforcement officers outside the Caesars Superdome before Thursday's Sugar Bowl. ABOVE: An officer along a taped-off Bourbon Street, near the site of this week's deadly attack.

tips from the public.

"It is possible to both mourn and move forward," noted Juliette Kayyem, a former assistant secretary at the Department of Homeland Security who now chairs the homeland security

program at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Dragged-out postponements and citywide shutdowns — which followed the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing and a 2023 mass killing in Lewiston, Maine

— can create an impression that danger persists long after the threat has been tamed, according to Kayyem.

The psychic wound lingers.

"I do think we cannot let fear win and do it safely," said Stephen Murphy, director of the disaster management program at Tulane University in New Orleans, who has been monitoring the city's response. Rather than patrol cars blocking roads, he expected to see fire engines or loaded dump trucks serving as deterrents — "an eyesore ... but a bigger safety measure."

On Thursday morning, fans in town to watch the University of Georgia take on Notre Dame milled around the French Quarter with coffee cups and beignets as police obstructed access to Bourbon Street.

Some guests projected optimism.

"I honestly think this is the safest place in the country right now," said Burt Wilson, 47, a Memphis resident who had come to root for the Fighting Irish. The night before, he had walked

about 15 blocks from his hotel to a casino, counting 490 police vehicles lining Canal Street. "It was just solid blue lights all the way down."

By afternoon, streets in the French Quarter were again crowded — though not packed. Imbibing had resumed. Partygoers streamed by the crime scene, where a camouflage green National Guard truck was parked. Few stopped to stare.

"I want to reassure the public that the city of New Orleans is not only ready for game day today," Mayor LaToya Cantrell said, "but we are ready to host large events because we are built to host."

Charles Stone, 35, stood smoking behind his folding table set up on Canal Street. He makes a living in the nightlife corridor playing chess with tourists who fill his tip jar.

Bourbon Street should be closed to traffic, he had long thought. In his view, drivers barrel recklessly through what should be a pedestrian mall.

Once the narrow street re-opens, he isn't sure if he will again set up his board game there. "If I do decide to, it's to make the people feel safe," he said.

Samantha Petry, 38, who bartends at a karaoke bar on Bourbon and lives nearby, felt compelled to visit a makeshift memorial of 14 yellow roses laid on the street. "Paying respects," she said tearfully. As she made her way past a second line band, friends embraced her. She is still worrying over those whom she hasn't seen or been able to reach, especially since authorities have yet to release all victims' names.

As for what's next? Petry is a transplant from California, and relatives are now urging her to return. She admits to being conflicted.

"I could take a flight and go home, but I love this city," she said. "I don't feel safe, but I have to work."

Around the Superdome, the security precautions looked standard for a marquee event. Metal detectors pinged. Signs warned attendees that their bags must be

see-through. But tucked in alleys alongside downtown skyscrapers, police officers wearing tactical gear and sitting in armored vehicles were visible.

Kevin Mast, 36, and Rodney Herron, 48, traveled from northern Indiana to cheer on Notre Dame. No one was going to stop them from wearing matching green-and-white overalls with festive gold chains.

"We spent too much money to go home," Mast quipped.

At Walk On's Sports Bistreux, a sports bar near the stadium, patrons crammed together, shouting out lyrics as the DJ played Bon Jovi's "Livin' on a Prayer." A pair of brothers visiting from northern Indiana agreed that New Orleans seemed to be responding to the tragedy with defiance.

"You can feel it still, but the vibe has definitely picked up since yesterday," said Chase Kendall, 25.

Across the street from that glee, New Orleans native Renata Tallo said she could tell that the city was a long way from business as usual.

"There is still a lot of people inside, and a lot of people scared," said Tallo, who previously worked as a "shot girl" at a bar on Bourbon Street.

Sports fans, she figured, were filling the bars. "But you won't see too many locals," she predicted. "We are all on edge."

In the stadium, fans settled into their seats. Everyone paused for a moment of silence for the attack's victims before Notre Dame's band began playing the school's famous fight song and spelling out *I-R-I-S-H* on the field.

In response, fans of the Georgia Bulldogs barked, then barked louder, trying to drown out the music.

There was football to play, after all. Kickoff was minutes away.

Jesse Dougherty contributed to this report.

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## Trump appears to blame Biden border policy for New Orleans attack

BY MARIANNE LEVINE  
AND CAT ZAKRZEWSKI

President-elect Donald Trump appeared to blame the Biden administration's border policies for the vehicular attack that killed 14 people in New Orleans on Wednesday morning, even though authorities have identified the assailant as a native-born U.S. citizen.

"With the Biden 'Open Border' Policy I said, many times during Rallies, and elsewhere, that Radical Islamic Terrorism, and other forms of violent crime, will become so bad in America that it will become hard to even imagine or believe," Trump said in a social media post Thursday. "That time has come, only worse than ever imagined."

The FBI has identified Shamsud-Din Jabbar as the man who drove a truck with an Islamic State flag into a crowd on Bourbon Street early on New Year's Day. Jabbar, who was killed at the scene, was an Army veteran from Texas and a U.S. citizen.

Although Trump didn't explicitly say he was referring to the New Orleans attack, the timing of his Thursday post and his mention of "Radical Islamic Terrorism" suggest he was making the connection. President Joe Biden said Wednesday that Jabbar's attack appeared to have been inspired by ISIS.

"President Trump rightfully highlighted that criminals crossing the border have committed some of the most heinous crimes this country has witnessed in its history," said Steven Cheung,



Former president Donald Trump and Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry in New Orleans in 2023.

Trump communications director. "That is a factual statement, and it is a big reason why Americans overwhelmingly voted for him and gave him a massive mandate. It is also true that radical Islamic terrorism and its warped ideology have crossed into our country and infected those looking to spread hate and violence."

In social media posts that appeared related to the attack, Trump sought to blame migrants for crime in the United States,

reprising a central theme of his presidential campaign. In one particularly notable episode in September, the Trump campaign and its allies distorted Homeland Security statistics on undocumented immigrants with criminal records, claiming that the migrants entered the country during the Biden administration. In fact, most did not enter during Biden's White House tenure. The statistics span the past four decades, and many of the migrants in question entered the country

during Trump's first term. Jabbar was born in the United States during President Ronald Reagan's administration. His mother was born in Texas, according to Texas public records. Trump has proposed curtailing birthright citizenship, the constitutional provision that grants automatic citizenship to almost all people born on U.S. soil. But even under Trump's proposal, children who have at least one U.S. citizen parent, as Jabbar did, would still become U.S. citizens.

In a Fox News interview on

Legal scholars have said that restricting birthright citizenship would require changing the Constitution, an unlikely scenario.

There is no evidence that undocumented immigrants commit crimes at a higher rate than U.S. citizens. The vast majority of those arrested at the southern border do not have criminal convictions. Illegal border crossings reached the highest levels ever recorded during the first three years of Biden's terms, but those numbers have dropped significantly in recent months.

Hours after the New Orleans attack, Trump claimed on social media that "the criminals coming in are far worse than the criminals we have in our country" and said "our hearts are with all of the innocent victims and their loved ones, including the brave officers of the New Orleans Police Department."

Trump's message suggesting a tie between "criminals coming in" and the New Orleans attack took off on social media Wednesday after Fox News reported that the suspect drove a truck with a Texas license plate across the border in Eagle Pass, Texas, on Dec. 30. The news network later clarified that new reporting revealed that the truck crossed the border on Nov. 16, and the ID of the driver did not appear to be Jabbar's. Officials have said that Jabbar rented the car he drove into the crowd, a white Ford F-150 Lightning, through Turo, an online marketplace that allows people to rent out their personal vehicles.

In a Fox News interview on

Thursday morning, Rep. Michael Waltz (R-Florida), Trump's incoming national security adviser, brought up the border when asked about how to prevent further attacks.

"We've got to take a hard look at our defenses, first and foremost, close our border," Waltz said.

In addition to appearing to blame the attack on the Biden administration's border policies, Trump also reprised his claim of a weaponized justice system in a social media post early Thursday, and claimed that the United States is a "laughing stock all over the World!"

"This is what happens when you have OPEN BORDERS, with weak, ineffective, and virtually nonexistent leadership," Trump said. "The DOJ, FBI, and Democrat state and local prosecutors have not done their job. They are incompetent and corrupt, having spent all of their waking hours unlawfully attacking their political opponent, ME."

Tom Homan, Trump's incoming White House "border czar," told Fox News on Thursday that the "country is in grave danger, we need to secure that border." Homan also predicted that a "connection" would be found between the New Orleans attack and a separate Cybertruck explosion outside Trump's Las Vegas hotel, citing a "gut feeling." The FBI said Thursday that there was "no definitive link" between the two explosions.

Meryl Kornfield and Aaron Schaffer contributed to this report.

## FBI says attacker likely acted alone, had no accomplices

DRIVER FROM A1

Street corridor around 3:15 a.m. on Jan. 1. Jabbar rammed New Year's revelers with his truck before opening fire with a gun and being killed during a shootout with authorities.

Law enforcement officials found a flag representing the militant group the Islamic State, or ISIS, attached to the hitch of the truck.

Raia said Jabbar rented the Ford F-150 truck he used in the attack in Houston on Dec. 30, before driving it to New Orleans on New Year's Eve. During the journey, Jabbar recorded five videos and posted them to Facebook. Jabbar said in the videos that he joined the Islamic State before the summer and offered a will and testament, Raia said.

"In the first video, Jabbar explains he originally planned to harm his family and friends, but was concerned the news headlines would not focus on the 'war between the believers and the disbelievers,'" Raia said.

Raia did not address whether Jabbar had contact with the Islamic State. He said officials were investigating why Jabbar chose to carry out the attack in New Orleans, but said he might have targeted Bourbon Street because of the large crowds.

"That's the stuff in the coming days as far as that path to radicalization that we're really going to be digging into and making a priority," Raia said.

Authorities have searched a home on Mandeville Street in New Orleans in connection with the attack.

Joshua Jackson, the top ATF agent for the New Orleans area, said at the news conference Thursday that authorities believe the home caught fire after Jabbar was killed and that investigators were trying to determine the cause.

Authorities said they have recovered three phones and two computers associated with Jabbar.

Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry (R) said at the news conference that more than 1,000 law enforcement officers have been involved in the investigation. Bourbon Street reopened Thursday afternoon, and heightened security was in place for the Sugar Bowl.

Small crowds returned to the area, surrounded by musicians, dancers and other street performers. Visitors bought souvenirs and toted drinks as they



An officer embraces a man over crime-scene tape. Gov. Jeff Landry said more than 1,000 officers have been involved in the investigation.

walked in the sun. They passed a new security barrier, local and state police and National Guard troops.

There was laughter and celebration, but also tears.

Samantha Petry, 38, who bartends at a karaoke bar on Bourbon Street and lives nearby, felt compelled to visit the memorial of 14 yellow roses after the street reopened "paying respects." When she arrived, she wept.

As Petry made her way down the street, friends embraced her. It was those she hadn't seen who worried her.

"I'm still trying to get a hold of some of them," she said. Authorities had not released all of the victims' names.

Chris Pousson, who attended middle school and high school with Jabbar, said in an interview that the attack has stunned people in Jabbar's hometown, Beaumont, Texas, where Pousson still lives. Pousson said Jabbar was a good student, friendly and well-liked.

"He was a really quiet person,"

*"He just was a regular dude."*

Grant Savoy, a high school classmate of New Orleans attacker Shamsud-Din Jabbar

Pousson said. "He just kind of kept to himself. He was really reserved. He wasn't outgoing and wasn't disruptive in class. He wasn't a troublemaker."

Pousson said he and Jabbar graduated from high school in 2001. Jabbar joined the Army, and Pousson enlisted in the Air Force. They lost contact for a while but later became friends on Facebook. He said the last time he spoke with Jabbar was around 2018 and that Jabbar had grown more outwardly religious.

"Every post or every conversation we had would eventually gravitate toward Allah," Pousson said. "It was nothing negative or violent, but it just seemed like that was what he was thinking

about and passionate about."

Grant Savoy, a high school classmate of Jabbar's at what was then Central High School in Beaumont said he also was surprised to hear about Jabbar's connection to the deadly event. He described Jabbar as "a quiet guy" in high school.

"He just was a regular dude," Savoy said.

Jabbar had worked in a staff-level role since being hired in 2021 for consulting firm Deloitte, said spokesperson Jonathan Gandal.

"Like everyone, we are outraged by this shameful and senseless act of violence and are doing all we can to assist authorities in their investigation," Gandal said. He had previously been employed by Accenture in Houston, according to a 2018 court record.

Jabbar served in the Army from 2007 to 2020, spending eight years on active duty and five years in the Reserve, according to the Army. His two military jobs, which were not combat-related, did not indicate any specialized

weapon or explosive experience. He deployed overseas to Afghanistan between 2009 and 2010.

Jabbar married Nakedra Jabbar in 2008 in Beaumont, and they divorced in 2012, according to court records on file in North Carolina, where he was then serving in the U.S. Army. They had two daughters and the divorce was due to irreconcilable differences.

A man named Shamsuddin or Shamsuddin Bahar Jabbar who appears to be the same man who carried out the New Orleans attack, wrote in court records that he moved to Georgia after driving while intoxicated on the Fort Bragg Military Reservation in North Carolina in late 2014. He later pleaded guilty to a petty misdemeanor and was sentenced to 12 months' probation for the offense. As a condition of his release, he was ordered to avoid incurring credit card charges or opening new lines of credit without the government's permission.

In addition to the drunken driving case, Jabbar pleaded

guilty to misdemeanor theft in Texas in 2002 and was fined \$100 and sentenced to nine months' probation, court records show.

In recent years, Jabbar had presented himself online as a capable real estate sales agent and businessman, after earning a degree from Georgia State, but there was more turmoil in his personal life.

He married Shaneen Jabbar, in 2017 before filing for divorce from her in 2020 and, after they dropped the case, filing for divorce again a year later. They had a son and were granted a divorce in 2022.

The divorce records indicate that his business ventures were struggling, his marriage was in turmoil and he was responsible for most of the household's bills. Despite a job at Deloitte paying about \$120,000 a year, he said he was struggling to pay his mortgage and carrying thousands of dollars in credit card debt.

In a January 2022 email to one of Shaneen's divorce lawyers, Jabbar asked to quickly finalize the case and sell the family's four-bedroom home in Fresno, Texas.

"Time is of the essence," he wrote, adding that he could not afford the house payment. "It is past due in excess of \$27,000 and is in danger of foreclosure if we delay settling the divorce."

He said he had "misunderstood the terms of a loan modification" he had applied for and had "exhausted all means of bringing the loan current."

He said he had told his then-wife months earlier that they had "no alternative but to sell the house or allow it to go into foreclosure."

He also asked that Shaneen Jabbar turn over any interests in Blue Meadow Properties LLC, a business he said was formed before their marriage, and others created afterward, Jabbar Real Estate Holdings LLC, and BDQ L3C. He said Blue Meadow Properties LLC had a loss of \$28,019.54 the prior year, and was worth about \$140,000. The other two businesses had not launched and were worth nothing.

Blue Meadows Properties, LLC, which lists Jabbar as its agent, went through "tax forfeiture" in March of 2023, according to Texas Secretary of State records, thus forfeiting its ability to operate.

Molly Hennessy-Fiske in New Orleans contributed to this report.

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The Washington Post



## JIMMY CARTER 1924-2024

## RETROPOLIS

## An evangelical 'born again' faith that was inseparable from politics and life

BY JOE HEIM

In his inaugural address in January 1977, President Jimmy Carter spoke just four sentences before quoting from scripture. He chose an admonition from the prophet Micah in the Old Testament:

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God."

The reading served as both a rebuke and a promise, and it helped set the tone for his administration.

As the first president elected since the Watergate scandal, Carter had chosen a biblical passage that spotlighted justice and humility, two ingredients absent from the administration of President Richard M. Nixon, who resigned in disgrace. The inclusion of that scripture verse at the beginning of his speech also emphasized Carter's personal faith as an unshakable force in his life that would guide his decisions and his leadership.

Raised as an evangelical Baptist, Carter would turn to his faith countless times during his years in office in times of crisis and as he sought to pursue his political agenda, say scholars and religious leaders who knew him and studied his role in public life. He once told an interviewer that on eventful days he might pray up to 25 times.

The faith that served Carter in political office would come to define many of his works, projects and teachings in the decades following his presidential term. But much earlier, it was those same beliefs that had set him apart from other politicians and put him on the path to the presidency.

During the 1976 campaign, Carter had talked openly and often about his faith and about being a "born again" Christian, said retired Grove City College history professor Gary S. Smith, the author of "Faith and the Presidency: From George Washington to George W. Bush." Such a public embrace of faith and religion was not exactly common for politicians seeking national office in the second half of the 20th century. And the phrase "born again" baffled members of the media and others unfamiliar with evangelicals and their public declarations of faith, Smith said.

"Americans want their presi-



FROM TOP: President Jimmy Carter addresses members and visitors to Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia, in 2010. Attendees listen to Carter speak at Maranatha in 2019.

dents to be religious, but not too religious," Smith said.

Carter, however, ignored those who told him to play down his beliefs or keep them to himself.

"He specifically talked about being born again, which no politician had talked about previously," Smith said. "He certainly was not bashful at all about his personal faith and how it guided his politics and motivated his decision to run for office."

During his first presidential campaign, Carter said he decided to tell the truth about his faith even if it would cost him. "If there are those who don't want to vote for me because I'm a deeply com-

mitted Christian, I believe they should vote for someone else," he told the *New York Times*.

Carter was a relative unknown in a crowded Democratic presidential primary field that grew to 17 candidates, and his embrace of his faith stood out and may have increased his appeal to some voters, Smith said. He would go on to beat incumbent Gerald Ford in November, a victory owed partly to the support of many evangelical Christians.

A little more than half of evangelical voters pulled the lever for Carter in 1976, said Randall Balmer, professor of religious history at Dartmouth and the author of "Re-

deemer: The Life of Jimmy Carter," a biography of the former president focused on his faith.

In the middle part of the 20th century, evangelicals had been politically dormant, Balmer said. But that changed when Carter ran.

"He speaks unabashedly about being a born-again Christian, and that's who they are," he said. "So he was speaking their language, and I think many evangelicals voted for Carter in '76 out of the sheer novelty of being able to vote for one of their own."

Carter, Balmer said, would have done much better with evangelicals had it not been for his infamous interview in *Playboy* magazine in September 1976.

"He was heading for a landslide victory, and then the *Playboy* interview came out," Balmer said. "And he dropped 15 percentage points in the polls at that point. And so I think his share of the evangelical vote would have been much higher had it not been for that ill-fated interview."

According to Balmer, it wasn't so much what Carter said in the interview — even though that is

where Carter famously admitted he had "looked on a lot of women with lust" and "committed adultery in my heart many times." The fact it was in *Playboy* was alone enough to dissuade evangelical voters.

Four years later, however, evangelical voters would abandon Carter altogether and flock to Ronald Reagan, who would ride a wave of nationwide discontent with the incumbent to a sweeping electoral victory. Carter won just six states and the District of Columbia.

The reasons evangelicals forsook one of their own for a divorced former Hollywood actor are complex, Balmer said. But, he said, they weren't rooted in the abortion issue that would later be a catalyst for evangelical voters. Instead, a decision by the Internal Revenue Service during Carter's presidency to remove tax exemptions for evangelical institutions and schools because of their racially discriminatory policies was "what gets this movement riled up and mobilized in advance of the 1980 election," Balmer said.

Even in the face of a humiliating defeat, Carter's religious faith never wavered. Rather, it continued to give him purpose and direction, said Jim Wallis, an evangelical theologian who founded and edited *Sojourners* magazine and is now the faculty director of the Georgetown University Center on Faith and Justice.

Carter would go on to a vibrant post-presidential career marked by the 1982 founding, with his wife Rosalynn, of the Carter Center, a nonprofit dedicated to human rights, conflict resolution, education and the eradication of disease. The couple's seemingly tireless efforts have extended more than 40 years to address poverty and homelessness, facilitate peacemaking missions and campaign for equal rights and opportunities for women around the globe.

The inspiration for all of his work was the same, said Wallis, who visited and spoke with Carter on numerous occasions.

"You hear a lot about how he was the best ex-president and how his four decades of humanitarian work probably accomplished more than any president," Wallis said. "But what you may not hear is the reason for all of it. And the reason wasn't some vague notion of public service. Everything for

him was about his faith. That was his motivation for everything he did."

What stood out to Wallis in his visits and interactions with Carter was the former president's humility.

"Any suggestion around him that he was perfect or a saint or even pious, he would just quickly say, 'Oh, no, no, no,'" Wallis said, adding, "His faith genuinely made him humble."

Carter, whom Balmer describes as a progressive evangelical, found himself increasingly at odds with the Southern Baptist Conference as the group's ideology grew more conservative. In 2000, he severed his affiliation with the conference, saying its practices were not in line with his Christian beliefs.

The group's decision to bar female deacons and to insist that wives should "submit graciously" to their husbands "violate the basic premises of my Christian faith," Carter, a deacon and Sunday school teacher, wrote in a letter to fellow Baptists.

"I personally feel the Bible says all people are equal in the eyes of God. I personally feel that women should play an absolutely equal role in service of Christ in the church," he wrote.

The Rev. James Merritt, then president of the SBC, responded to Carter's announcement: "With all due respect to the president, he is a theological moderate. We are not a theological moderate convention."

In recent years, after he was diagnosed with melanoma that spread to his brain and later suffered a fall that fractured his pelvis, Carter talked openly about how his religious beliefs shaped his understanding of death.

"I, obviously, prayed about it. I didn't ask God to let me live, but I just asked God to give me a proper attitude toward death," Carter said. "And I found that I was absolutely and completely at ease with death. It didn't really matter to me whether I died or lived. I have, since that time, been absolutely confident that my Christian faith includes complete confidence in life after death."

## RETROPOLIS



DIRCK HALSTEAD/GETTY IMAGES

Jimmy Carter sits in the White House library on Feb. 2, 1977 — two weeks after becoming president — for the first of his fireside chats.

## The unraveling of a president's sweater messaging

BY FREDERIC J. FROMMER

Less than two weeks into his presidency, Jimmy Carter sat before a crackling fire in a cardigan sweater and asked Americans to make sacrifices in the face of natural gas shortages and a brutally cold winter.

The speech would be ridiculed and mischaracterized for nearly half a century. To this day, Republicans invoke it as evidence of what they call a defeatist Democratic Party, especially Carter's exhortation for Americans to conserve energy by turning down the thermostat.

Yet the speech built on similar

themes articulated by Carter's two Republican predecessors, and it kicked off a landmark presidency for the cause of environmental conservation. Plus, it made a major fashion statement.

In the nationally televised Feb. 2, 1977, fireside chat, his first speech to the nation since his inauguration, Carter started off with his trademark earnestness.

"Tomorrow will be two weeks since I became president," he said. "I've spent a lot of time deciding how I can be a good president."

Two weeks earlier, on Jan. 21, his first full day in office, Carter had previewed the conservation pep talk, issuing a statement

said Americans "must face the fact that the energy shortage is permanent. There is no way we can solve it quickly."

Then he issued this challenge: "All of us must learn to waste less energy. Simply by keeping our thermostats, for instance, at 65 degrees in the daytime and 55 degrees at night, we could save half the current shortage of natural gas. There is no way that I, or anyone else in the government, can solve our energy problems if you are not willing to help."

Two weeks earlier, on Jan. 21, his first full day in office, Carter had previewed the conservation pep talk, issuing a statement

urging Americans to lower the thermostat "to 65 degrees in the daytime and lower at night."

Conservatives have mocked Carter's message of self-sacrifice. Former House speaker Kevin McCarthy (Calif.) has said it inspired him as a 12-year-old to become a Republican.

"I was in the sixth grade, I turned on the TV, and I watched Jimmy Carter have a sweater on and tell me to turn the heating down," then-Minority Leader McCarthy said in a record-breaking 8½-hour speech in 2021. "He told me that the best days were behind us, that as an American I had to accept less. That wasn't

urging Americans to lower the thermostat "to 65 degrees in the daytime and lower at night."

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"I was in the sixth grade, I turned on the TV, and I watched Jimmy Carter have a sweater on and tell me to turn the heating down," then-Minority Leader McCarthy said in a record-breaking 8½-hour speech in 2021. "He told me that the best days were behind us, that as an American I had to accept less. That wasn't

how I was raised."

Mostly lost to history is that Carter's predecessor, President Gerald Ford, made a similar plea when he unveiled his ill-fated Whip Inflation Now (WIN) plan in a 1974 speech: "To help save scarce fuel in the energy crisis, drive less, heat less." And the year before that, in response to severe energy shortages brought on by the Arab oil embargo of 1973, President Richard M. Nixon urged Americans to lower their thermostats by at least six degrees to achieve a national daytime average of 68 degrees.

But neither Republican president used a wardrobe accessory to reinforce their message. And many people have shorthanded Carter's message to "Put on a sweater," although he never told anyone to do that. (Even the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library erroneously tweeted, in recognition of the first day of autumn a couple of years ago, that the former president "encouraged Americans to turn the heat down to conserve energy and throw on a sweater instead!") Instead, sitting in front of shelves stocked with books, Carter made the point more subtly by sporting a cardigan himself, over a shirt and tie, in a look that resembled a college professor's.

"Obviously their motives are different but President Carter is doing for sweaters today what Lana Turner did for them in the 1940s," Washington Post fashion editor Nina S. Hyde wrote in a story headlined "President Carter, the Sweater Man," published on Feb. 5, 1977. "Probably not since the hey days of that Sweater Girl have Americans been so aware of people wearing sweaters."

She added: "It's not likely that Carter was wearing a sweater merely for the warmth it provided but rather to underscore the informality of his fireside chat and to put across his message of energy conservation. ... He was wearing a V-neck wool cardigan, sometimes called a 'grandfather sweater' since it sells best as a Christmas gift for older men."

Hyde quoted designer Ralph Lauren as saying that Carter "wore a sweater to establish his own identity. It should have an impact greater than a movie star on an athlete. It could change the etiquette of clothes."

In 2012, Time magazine listed Carter's sweater among its top 10 political fashion statements, noting that the magazine predicted in 1977 that the cardigan "may prove to be the most memorable symbol of an Administration that promises to make steady use of symbolism." At the time, even an unnamed Republican "insider" grudgingly conceded, "He was folks, and folks is in. I hate to say it, but from a purely analytical point of view, I loved it."

Not everyone was as enamored with the sweater, which drew its share of taunts. A 1978 "Saturday Night Live" skit, for example, featured Dan Aykroyd as a sweater-wearing Carter, giving a "plant-side chat" in honor of spring and urging Americans to burn 8 percent of their money to tamp down inflation.

In fact, Carter also addressed inflation and several other topics in his fireside chat, although the thermostat remains the enduring image. And while his focus on conservation was ahead of its time, not all of Carter's energy proposals in that speech would pass muster with environmentalists today, including his plan to "stress development of our rich coal reserves in an environmentally sound way."

Still, he did tout research on solar and other renewable energy sources and would install solar panels on the White House two years later. (Ronald Reagan then removed them.) Carter, who designated 56 million acres of Alaska wilderness as federally protected in 1978, is recognized today as one of the nation's most consequential environmental presidents.

And when it came to conserving energy, Carter did as he preached, selling the Sequoia presidential yacht and unplugging White House TV sets, according to PBS's 2002 "American Experience" documentary on Carter. In the film, his vice president, Walter Mondale, recalled with a laugh: "He turned off the air conditioners, and it was so hot in the White House, people would come in there — it was unbelievable. It would be a hundred above in there."

# THE WORLD

## In colossus of cattle, Argentines increasingly turn to pork

Amid record inflation and economic shock therapy, the grill-obsessed nation consumed less beef per capita in 2024 than at any point in the past century

BY TEO ARMUS

**BUENOS AIRES** — Gonzalo Hernández's butcher shop is just down the road from statues of a bull and a cattleman, near a neighborhood that gets its name, Mataderos, from its historic role as the center of the city's beef slaughterhouses.

But even in a cow-centric area in this beef-obsessed country, his customers over the weekend were increasingly lined up for a different type of meat: pork.

"It used to be that this was something we sold as an extra, the same way we did with coal for grilling," Hernández said, showing off a refrigerated counter full of thick-cut pork shoulder. "Now, pork is a main part of our business."

That Hernández has had to transfer some of his counter real estate to the humble pig is just one sign of how a tough economy and severe austerity measures — coupled with changing cultural norms — have been pushing people in this South American colossus of beef toward a different kind of red meat.

Right-wing libertarian President Javier Milei, an ally of President-elect Donald Trump, has been slashing federal subsidies and government spending to tackle record inflation, which peaked at a yearly rate of nearly 300 percent in April. His economic shock therapy has further tightened grocery budgets — and in 2024, Argentine beef consumption dropped to the lowest figure per capita in 110 years of data, according to the Rosario Board of Trade.

It is no coincidence, economists say, that Argentines were also on track for 2024 to eat more pork than ever before.

"The Argentine palate has changed," said Franco Ramseyer, a livestock economist at the Rosario Board of Trade. With total meat consumption holding steady, pork "is a cheaper, leaner alternative with a convincing flavor. So it's no surprise that people are going to buy it more to replace beef."

Argentina's distinction as the country that consumes more beef than any other in the world does not appear likely to change soon: At about 104 pounds per capita, the 2024 figure is down from the historical average (157 pounds), yet still higher than the United States (84) or neighbors Brazil (75) and Chile (57).

But the shift here aligns with a global trend away from beef, Ramseyer added. In North America, fast-food chains have increasingly added chicken items to their menus as healthier, cheaper alternatives. Australia, Brazil and the European Union are all seeing a steep increase in poultry consumption.

In Argentina, consumption of chicken and processed pork products like chorizo has stayed relatively flat. It's fresh pork meat that has been on the sharpest rise, contributing to an overall increase from about 19 pounds per person annually a decade ago to a projected 37 pounds for 2024.

Walter Sosa, a third-generation butcher in Rosario, Argentina's third-largest city and a major agricultural center, had for years sold mostly beef out of his family's shops around town.

Noticing a slight change in sales patterns, they opened up a new store — Carnes Don Francisco — seven years ago to focus exclusively on selling pork. "It had to be a new shop," he said, "to break people's habits: You won't be able to come here and buy a steak."



PHOTOS BY SEBASTIÁN LÓPEZ BRACH FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



ABOVE: A traditional Argentine barbecue is prepared in Rosario, Argentina's third-largest city, last week. FAR LEFT: The Carnes Don Francisco butcher shop in Rosario specializes in selling premium pork cuts. LEFT: Walter Sosa arranges cuts of pork on Dec. 27 as his Carnes Don Francisco butcher shop in Rosario welcomes customers during the holiday season in Argentina.

co — seven years ago to focus exclusively on selling pork. "It had to be a new shop," he said, "to break people's habits: You won't be able to come here and buy a steak."

It is hard to overstate the importance of beef in Argentina, a nation of about 46 million where cattle outnumber people and cows are grass-fed for at least part of their lives before slaughter.

Under the country's populist Peronist party, exports were often limited to reserve beef for the domestic market. But it was also under those governments that inflation spiraled out of control, forcing many Argentines to make adjustments at the butcher shop or grocery store.

Inflation is declining under Milei — it is now at 166 percent — but beef exports are up and production has not increased, thus keeping prices high, said María Julia Aiassa, an analyst for the Rosario livestock market.

At Hernández's butcher shop in Buenos Aires, the lines this past

weekend stretched out the door, and many customers, still complaining of sticker shock, were forgoing beef.

"Eating a *bife de chorizo* these days is a luxury," said Felipe Gil, a 24-year-old student, referring to the most prized cut of beef, a thick-cut steak, which was selling for 18,000 pesos, or \$17, per kilo (about 2.2 pounds).

Where Gil's family could afford to put beef on the dinner table almost every night when he was a child, he said, they have cut back to consuming it two or three times a week. In its place, his father has taken to preparing *milanesa* — a breaded veal cutlet akin to schnitzel — with tenderized pork instead.

"He would always use eye of round, or more expensive cuts of beef, but times change," Gil said.

A few decades ago, many Argentines saw pigs as dirty, and pork meat as somewhere between too fatty and too tasteless. What little was eaten — often a *cochinillo*, or roast suckling pig, on Christ-

mas Eve — was at one point far more expensive than beef.

Daniel Fenoglio, president of the Argentine Porcine Federation, which represents about 90 percent of the country's pork producers, said technological advances brought from overseas in the 2000s made pork much cheaper to produce.

Where it typically takes years to raise a calf for slaughter — not to mention plenty of open grassland for grazing — pigs could be farmed in far less time and much smaller pens. A national boom in corn and soybean production provided easy access to feed nearby. But consumption really started to grow, Fenoglio said, when the industry began renaming cuts of pork — which had inherited names from Spain — to match Argentines' distinct denomination for parts of the cow.

"People could start comparing cuts to beef in their flavor, cooking time and price point," he said. Although chicken is cheaper, pork became a more natural substitute:

"The cooking possibilities are very similar in terms of what goes in the oven, on the grill or in a pot on the stove."

Popular cooking shows have started promoting recipes for pork to make *vitel toné*, a popular holiday dish of veal in a creamy sauce of anchovies and capers. Marketing campaigns helped spread the idea that fresh pork — which is typically carved up at butcher shops rather than being prepackaged in individual cuts — is healthier than beef.

At least part of that message had stuck with Ramón Chávez, a 50-year-old electrician who was waiting to buy pork shoulder on Saturday.

"It's not as greasy. It doesn't make you gain weight as much," he said, pointing out that pork's lower melting point renders more fat off the meat. "Well, ask me in a few years."

For whatever increase it has assumed in Argentines' diets, no one would dare to say that pork will ever dethrone beef as the

most prized item on the grill.

"I'm not convinced," said Adriana Gutiérrez, a government worker who came to buy pork ribs at the butcher. For health reasons, she limits her beef intake to an occasional lean rump steak from a neighborhood restaurant. But even she said the idea of *vitel toné* with pork seemed "ridiculous."

At Sosa's butcher shop in Rosario, meanwhile, the pig paraphernalia covering his Don Francisco store does not appear to have made its strictly pork-only inventory clear to even some of his regular customers.

Several customers — home cooks and grill masters who had been coming in once a week or more — walked in during the holiday rush last week seeking beef as a special treat for Christmas Eve.

"I had to tell them: 'We simply don't sell that here,'" he recalled saying. "You've been buying only pork for the last year, brother."

Sebastián López Brach in Rosario contributed to this report.

### DIGEST

#### PANAMA

#### Darien Gap sees fewer immigrant crossings

Over 300,000 migrants crossed the Darien Gap into Panama in 2024, 42 percent fewer than the record number who made the perilous jungle crossing from South America a year earlier, Panama's migration authorities told Reuters on Thursday.

The Darien Gap connects Colombia with the Central American nation of Panama, and increasing numbers of migrants were making the journey north to reach the United States.

Panamanian President José Raúl Mulino has taken a harder stance on migration since taking office last July, including fencing parts of the Darien with barbed wire, imposing fines and using flights funded by the United States to deport migrants.

Officials with Panama's National Migration Service told

Reuters 302,203 migrants crossed the Darien last year, down 42 percent from the record 520,085 in 2023. Some 69 percent of migrants in 2024 were Venezuelans, they said.

Many Venezuelans have been fleeing a prolonged economic collapse in the once-prosperous South American oil-producing nation.

Analysts have warned Panama's measures may not be ultimately successful because they do not tackle the root issues prompting people to migrate, and that they could make the journey even more dangerous.

— Associated Press

#### BANGLADESH

#### Court again rejects bail for Hindu leader

A court in southeastern Bangladesh on Thursday rejected a plea for bail by a jailed Hindu leader who led large rallies in the Muslim-majority

country demanding better security for minority groups.

Krishna Das Prabhu, 39, faces sedition charges after he led huge rallies in the southeastern city of Chattogram. Hindu groups say there have been thousands of attacks against Hindus since early August, when the secular government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was overthrown.

Apurba Kumar Bhattacharjee, a lawyer representing Prabhu, said that they would appeal the decision. The court rejected an earlier request for bail made while Prabhu didn't have lawyers. Lawyers who sought to represent him at that hearing said they were threatened or intimidated, and many of them are facing charges related to the death of a Muslim lawyer during clashes outside the court when Prabhu appeared there shortly after being arrested in Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka, in November.

— Associated Press

#### ITALY

#### Journalist's release demanded of Iran

Italy summoned Iran's ambassador on Thursday to demand the immediate release of an Italian journalist detained in Tehran, as the government and opposition ramped up public pressure on the politically sensitive case.

Cecilia Sala, a reporter for the *Il Foglio* daily newspaper, was detained in Tehran on Dec. 19. Tehran confirmed Monday that Sala had been arrested on charges of violating the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran, according to the state-run IRNA news agency.

The Italian Foreign Ministry said it summoned Iran's Ambassador Mohammad Reza Sabouri to demand her release and to ensure "dignified" detention conditions in full respect of human rights," including consular access and

visitations.

Italy's opposition Democratic Party also demanded her immediate release, citing Italian media reports about a phone call Sala's family received from her indicating she was sleeping on the floor and had not received a second package of personal items from the embassy.

Sala's case has dominated Italian headlines for days and even featured in President Sergio Mattarella's end-of-year speech to the nation.

— Associated Press

#### Argentina's government said on Thursday it had filed a complaint with the International Criminal Court

against Venezuela for detaining a member of its gendarmerie, a branch of Argentina's security forces, calling it a "forced disappearance." Tensions between the two South American countries have risen since Javier Milei, a far-right libertarian, assumed Argentina's presidency

in late 2023. These worsened after Venezuela's contested presidential election in July, in which incumbent socialist President Nicolás Maduro claimed victory. Last month, Argentina accused Caracas of detaining Nahuel Gallo, a member of its gendarmerie, after he tried to enter Venezuela from a crossing in Colombia to visit family.

**Five-time Olympic champion Hungarian gymnast Agnes Keleti**, the world's oldest living Olympic gold medalist and a survivor of the persecution of Jews in World War II, died at the age of 103 on Thursday, the Hungarian Olympic Committee said. Born as Agnes Klein in Budapest on Jan. 9, 1921, Keleti joined the National Gymnastics Association in 1938 and won her first Hungarian championship in 1940, only to be banned from all sports activities that year because of her Jewish origin.

— From News Services

# Alawites fearful as Syrian rebels hunt regime members

BY KAREEM FAHIM  
AND ZAKARIA ZAKARIA

KHIRBET AL-HAMMAM, SYRIA — Violence came roaring into this village in western Syria last week, when war was supposed to have receded.

Munitions fired by former rebels tore through homes, killed a teenage boy and left fears of vicious reckonings to come after the fall of Bashar al-Assad.

A sense of euphoria in much of Syria has been tempered by dread in areas like Khrbet al-Hammam, where most residents are Alawites, the Muslim sect Assad belongs to. As the country's new Sunni Islamist rulers embark on a hunt for former government figures, Alawite districts are gripped by terror and confusion, as reports spread of killings, disappearances, beatings and sectarian harassment.

The violence has posed an early test for Syria's fledgling government, led by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, the former rebel group that toppled Assad in early December with the help of other insurgent factions and was quick to promise tolerance for minorities.

But there have been surging calls for retribution against figures from the old regime, as former rebels and other Syrians return to their homes with relief and resentment — to cities and towns that became sites of trauma, filled with wretched memories for those exiled during the war, as well as for those who stayed.

While HTS has said it will dissolve the country's disparate rebel forces to create a unified army, that process has not yet started, making it often difficult to discern who is behind the violence, and the reasons some people are being targeted.

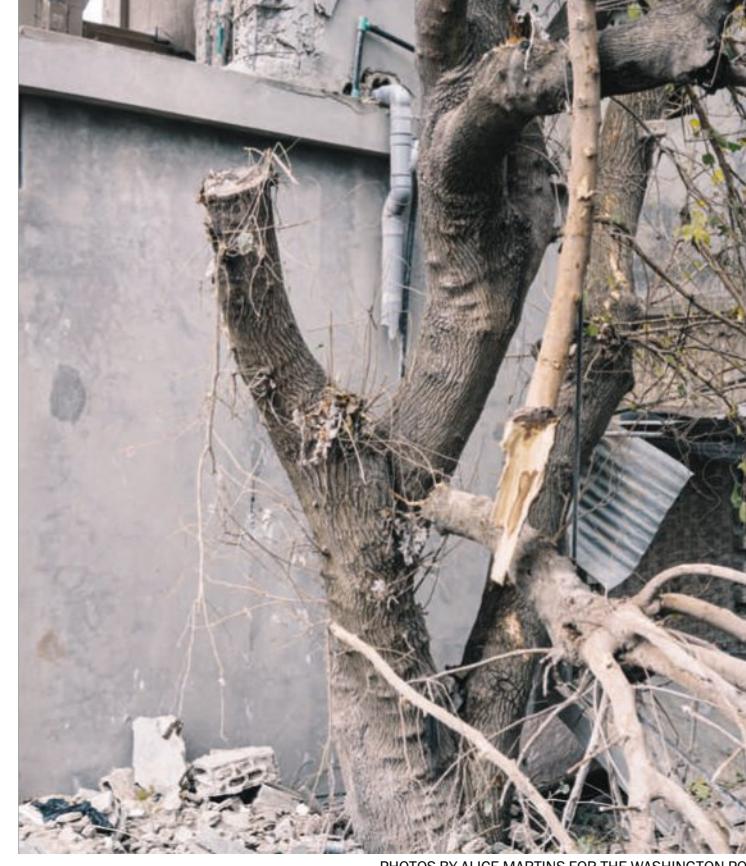
Residents in Khrbet al-Hammam said the evening barrage last week, carried out by the new government's forces, may have been a mistake — aimed at a notorious Assad loyalist and enforcer named Shuja al-Ali, who they said hailed from a different village a few miles to the north. Or else, some mused, the attack could have been directed at some of Ali's men as they passed through the community.

"We can't know," said Mohammad Younis, the local mayor, as men around him loudly professed support for the new de facto government and its leader, Ahmed al-Sharaa — expressions that seemed both earnest and intended to ward off further attacks.

A spokesman for HTS did not immediately reply to questions about the assault on the village, but the group, in statements Dec. 26, said it had been pursuing "remnants" of the former regime in the area.

Little in Khrbet al-Hammam suggested it was favored by Assad's government. Residents said many eked out a living as farmers or through what one local called "light smuggling," ferrying sugar and cooking oil across the border with Lebanon. There were a few bigger homes too, some belonging to government employees with coveted jobs, residents said. Cows roamed near the villas on chewed-up dirt roads.

Iyad Holo, a 40-year-old painter, said he was standing near his house with his son when it was hit last Thursday night. "God saved us," he said. But a local boy, Amin al-Youssef, 16, was killed in front of Holo's home while riding his motorcycle with his brother, who was injured.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Members of an HTS-led group man a checkpoint in the Akrama neighborhood of Homs, Syria, on Saturday. A damaged tree outside a house hit by munitions in Khrbet al-Hammam. Iyad Holo, 40, whose home in Khrbet al-Hammam was struck.

This region around Homs, the country's third-largest city, is a wellspring of Syria's pain: an early gathering point for protests in the uprising against Assad and, later, for the atrocities and massacres that were kindling for the 13-year civil war.

Now, it is one of several areas across Syria endangered by sectarian strife, as former rebels hunt old tormentors. Alawites — whom Assad recruited as military allies, even as the community remained poor and marginalized — have borne the brunt of the fury directed at the fallen regime.

"Terrorists! They are all terrorists!" a man screamed outside a checkpoint in Homs last week,

toward an Alawite neighborhood cordoned off by HTS fighters after a protest there on Dec. 25.

Tumult in the region accelerated last week when a video circulated online showing an apparent attack by armed men on an Alawite shrine in Aleppo. The video's provenance was unclear, but HTS said the incident occurred in late November, when rebels seized the city from Assad's forces; it blamed the attack on unnamed outsiders.

As protests erupted in Alawite-majority areas, some tried to seize the moment, including Ali, who was seen in another video purportedly recorded last week, addressing an angry crowd. "They burned our shrine," he

said. "We will burn mosques." At the height of his power, Ali commanded at least 200 men, had a vast arsenal of weapons and was infamous for his kidnapping-for-ransom schemes, according to a former official with an Assad-era paramilitary group, speaking on the condition of anonymity for fear of retribution.

An HTS statement on Dec. 26 said Ali was targeted in a government raid in Balqasa, north of Khrbet al-Hammam, but it did not say if he had been killed or captured. Videos on social media claimed to show his body being taken to Houla, near the site of a massacre of Sunni Muslims early in the civil war. The Washington

Post could not independently confirm his fate.

The Alawite protest in Homs on Dec. 25 ended with gunfire. HTS blamed former regime elements who infiltrated the gathering, while residents said rebel fighters fired on the crowd, killing at least one person. A day later, fighters had sealed off several Alawite neighborhoods in the city, a measure they said was aimed at apprehending wanted figures and removing weapons. Cars were prevented from entering the neighborhoods.

Residents were questioned before they were allowed to pass.

"We don't have any problems with Alawites," said a fighter who

## 40 reported killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza City

BY AMANDA COLETTA,  
HAZEM BALOUSHA  
AND CLAIRE PARKER

Israel pummeled Gaza City with more than 15 strikes Thursday, killing over 40 people and injuring 120, the besieged enclave's civil defense agency said, calling the number of strikes high compared with recent days.

"What is happening now in the Gaza Strip, specifically in Gaza City, is sheer madness by the Israeli occupation forces," said Mahmoud Bassal, an agency spokesman. "We are no longer able to respond to all distress calls amid the ongoing bombardment and relentless airstrikes."

Bassal said the strikes hit civilian gatherings and had been constant since dawn Thursday. The Israel Defense Forces said it could not comment on the strikes without more specific details on location and timing.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Thursday that he had authorized a delegation of officials from the IDF, the Mossad intelligence service and the Shin Bet internal security agency to travel to Doha,

Qatar, to continue long-stalled negotiations toward a ceasefire and hostage-release deal.

In Shejaiya, a district in the eastern part of Gaza City, resident Ramez Samara, 47, said the sound of explosions had been constant since the early morning.

"Every time, there is talk of progress in ceasefire negotiations," he told The Washington Post, "yet the opposite is happening on the ground. ... I do not understand what is happening, why all this destruction and why the war does not stop."

Samara lost his home in the war and said he and his family have been displaced seven times. "We suffer in every aspect of life: food, water, shelter, even finding clothes," he said. "Above all, we endure the constant fear brought by relentless bombing."

Gaza's Interior Ministry said an Israeli airstrike in Khan Younis killed Mahmoud Salah, chief of the enclave's civilian police force, and Hossam Shahwan, a member of the "police leadership council," along with several civilians.

The Israeli military named Shahwan as the target and accused him of providing intelli-

gence to Hamas's military wing to attack the IDF.

The latest wave of strikes followed an Israeli military assault across Gaza on Wednesday that left at least 13 dead, including three children and two women. At least 12 people were killed and 41 injured in the final 48 hours of 2024, Gaza's Health Ministry said.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, the Palestinian Authority suspended the operations of the Al Jazeera news channel, citing unspecified breaches of "laws and regulations," Mohammad Mustafa, the authority's prime minister, said in a statement Thursday.

The suspension, first announced Wednesday, follows a decision by Israel to ban the Qatar-based channel last year, when it raided and shuttered Al Jazeera's offices in Jerusalem and later in the West Bank city of Ramallah — moves that drew wide condemnation by press freedom groups.

Al Jazeera is one of the few international broadcasters providing uninterrupted coverage of Israel's war in Gaza. Israel has for more than a year barred international journalists from entering

## Montenegro weighs ban after gunman kills 12

BY KATE BRADY  
AND ADAM TAYLOR

Montenegro's government began a three-day mourning period Thursday after a gunman opened fire on New Year's Day — killing 12 people, including two children, across several locations.

The shooter, identified by police as Aleksandar Martinovic, 45, fled and attempted suicide after being cornered by police, officials said. He died of his injuries on the way to hospital.

President Jakov Milatovic said late Wednesday in a post to X that he was "shocked and stunned" by the shooting. "Instead of holiday joy ... we have been gripped by sadness over the loss of innocent lives," he said.

The shooting has caused shock waves in Montenegro, a small Balkan country on the Adriatic Sea, home to some 620,000 people, that has long had a strong gun culture but relatively few mass shootings.

Prime Minister Milojko Spajic said that an upcoming national

gave his first name as Fadi, from Syria's northwest Idlib province, where HTS was based. "Our problem is those who worked with the gang of criminals."

"They have blood on their hands," he added. "They want to stop us from creating a new state."

Two days after that, fighters still roamed the area, but the cordon had eased and cars were passing through. Members of an Alawite family that lived in Akrama, one of the neighborhoods, said they were still fearful of leaving their homes, especially after sunset. The parents ventured out for a few hours Saturday to shop, but would not let their 26-year-old son out of the house, worried he would not return.

The mother, father and two of their children spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of retribution.

They said they were happy that Assad was gone. But not the way he was deposed, by fighters from Idlib, who "have this idea that anyone who was here supports the regime," the son said. Some of the former fighters scared them.

"They were in the wild fighting. What are they going to do in cities?" the mother said, referencing the long hair of some of the former rebels, some of whom, she said, were asking residents which sect they belonged to.

The father's cellphone rang. "We went and got bread and came back," he told a concerned friend. "God willing, the situation will be fine." The father made another call, to local leaders, who were busy, he said, going door to door around the neighborhood, imploring people to turn in their weapons.

At least one person they knew, a distant relative, had disappeared in recent days, the family said. And their social media feeds were rife with other stories of violence against Alawites, including an incident in Homs where six people were killed.

At the center of that story was Hatem Suleiman, an Alawite lawyer, who had been trying to move out of his neighborhood in Homs when he was killed, along with several of the movers, according to a relative, who declined to give her name for safety reasons. The relative said the killings stemmed, at least in part, from a dispute over whether rent had been paid. But as it traveled over social media and through the homes of a community on edge, it was seen as a chilling story about Alawites being targeted for revenge.

The family in Akrama were renters in the neighborhood, despite the father's longtime government job, supported mainly by a son who worked abroad. They understood the urge to punish members of the former regime, saying those who killed — or who ordered killings or torture — were criminals.

But there were many in the old government who were "just doing their jobs," the mother said. Alawites, she added, were "poor and peaceful, despite the former authority."

"Nobody chooses how he is born," the father said.

Just outside an HTS checkpoint in Homs, Rateb Almisrah, a 24-year-old dentist, said the Alawite neighborhoods were being targeted because they contained "some criminals who don't listen to the new government."

But he was worried about a friend who lived in the area, whom he had not heard from since the Dec. 25 protest. "We are waiting for him to call us," he said.

security meeting on Friday will now consider a "complete ban on gun ownership," among other measures. "Weapons must not be on the streets and in the hands of those who can harm others," Spajic said on X on Wednesday.

According to police, the gunman, who had a history of illegal weapons possession, had spent the day at a bar in Cetinje, about 22 miles west of Podgorica, the Montenegrin capital. After a brawl broke out, Martinovic went home, returned with a weapon and opened fire at around 5:30 p.m., killing four people — including the bar owner.

Interior Minister Danilo Saranovic told reporters that the bar owner's children and members of the gunman's own family were among the victims.

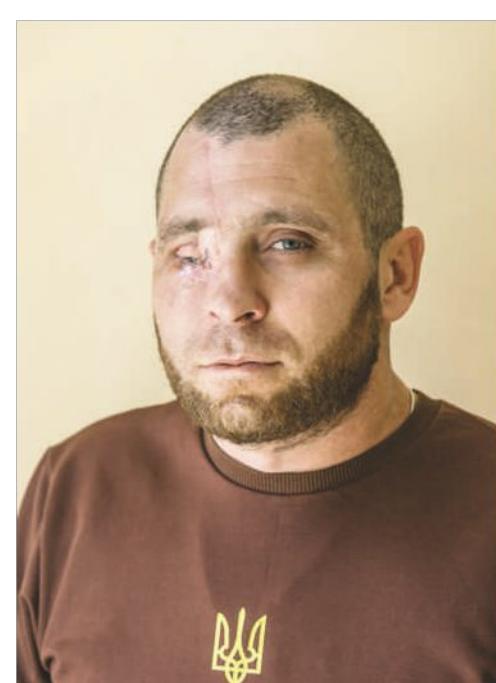
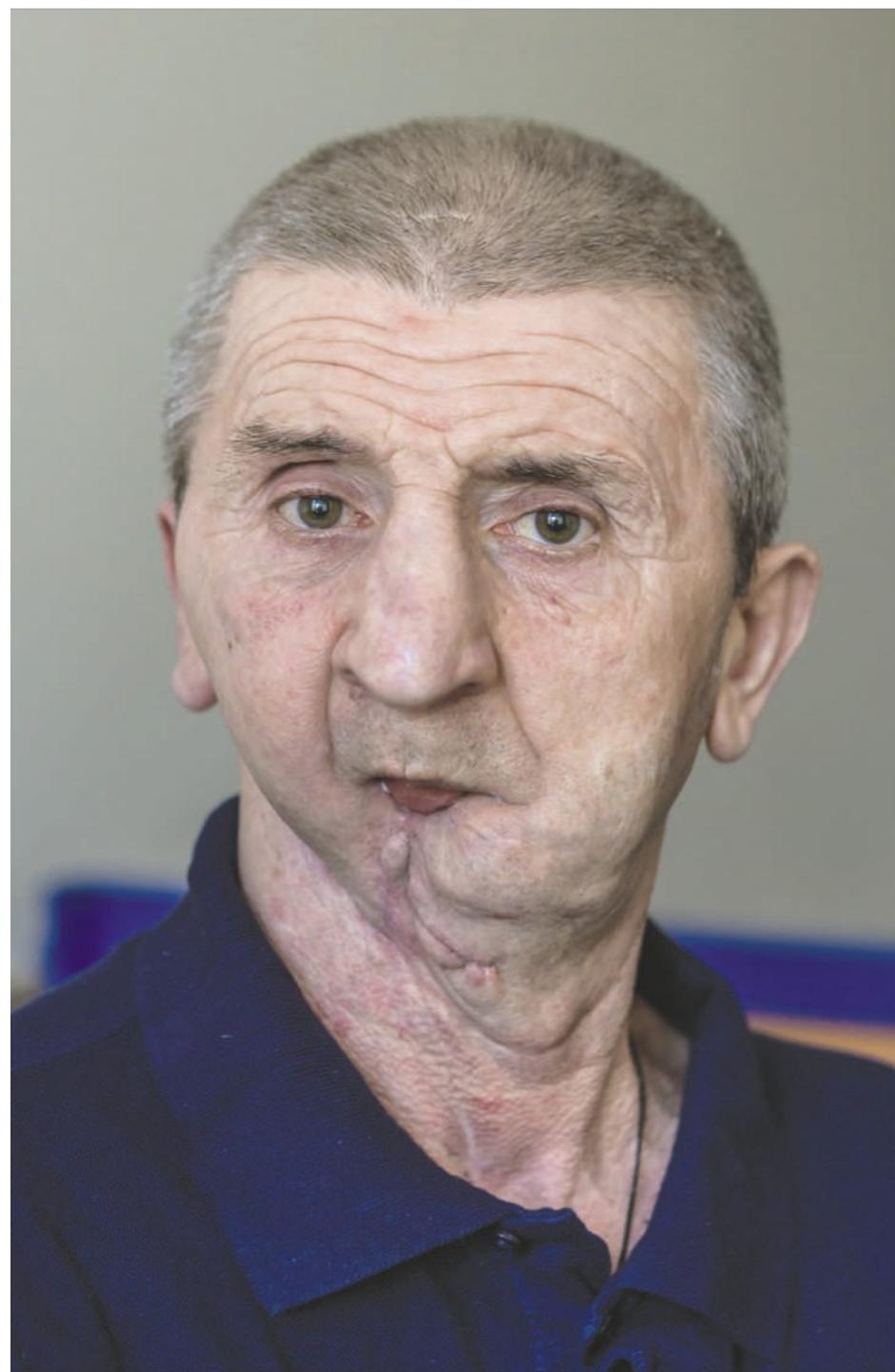
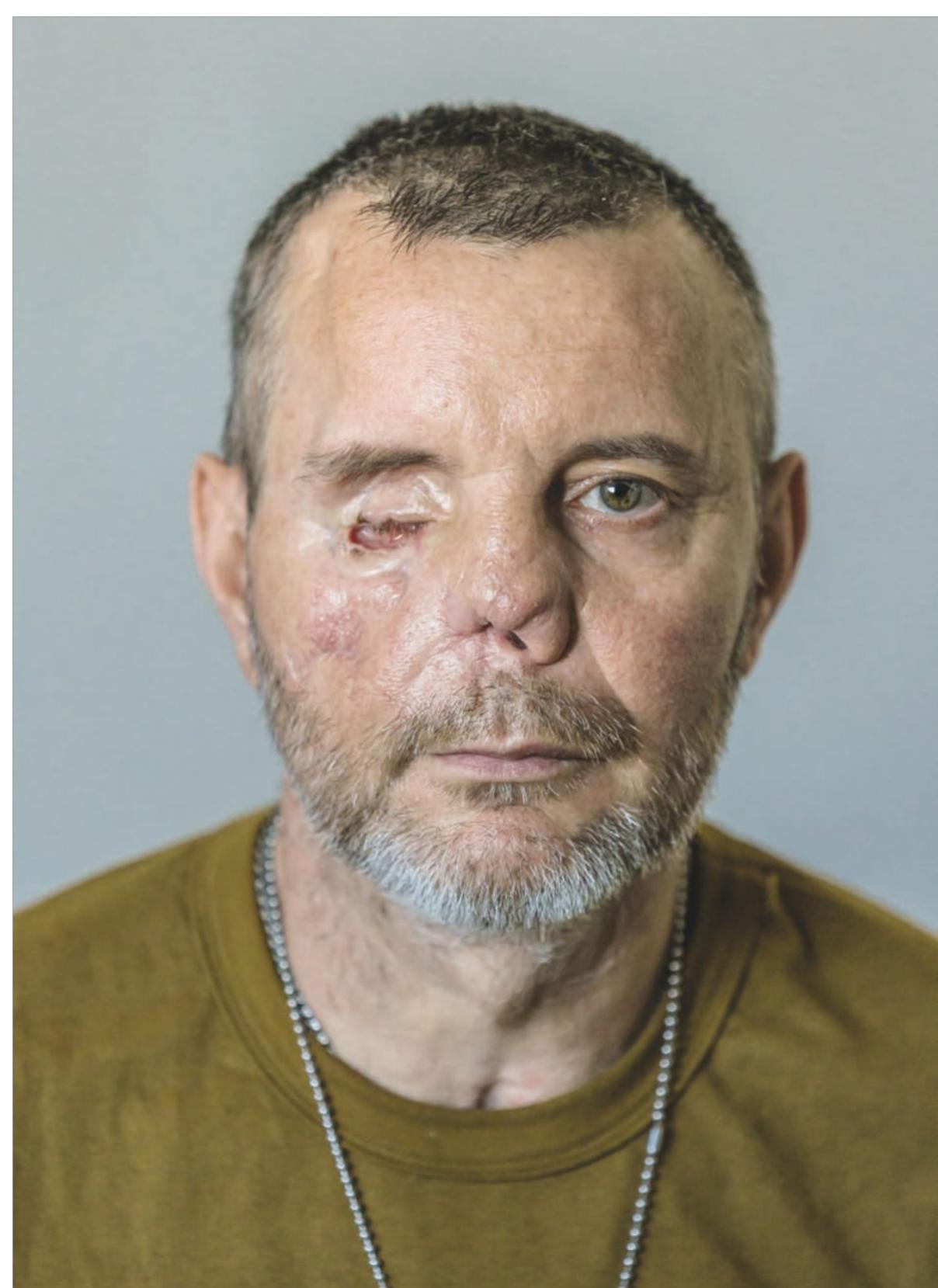
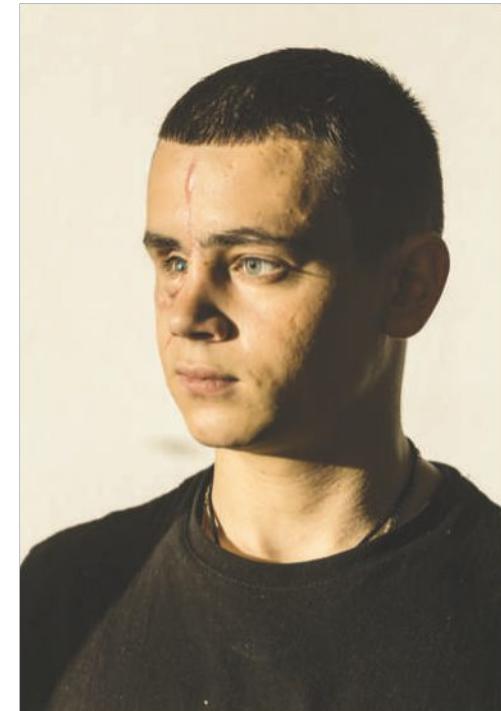
After the initial shooting, Martinovic proceeded to kill eight more people in at least three other locations, prosecutor Andrijana Nastic told reporters.

Four other people were taken to the hospital with life-threatening injuries.



## The wounded faces of war

PHOTOGRAPHY BY OKSANA PARAFENIUK  
FOR THE WASHINGTON POST



Clockwise from top left:  
Mykola Rudenok  
Dmytro Serduchenko  
Aram Kosiuk  
Volodymyr Moskovkin  
Anatolii Kholovny  
Anatolii Babych  
Mykyta Rozhenko

## UKRAINE FROM A1

**Mykola Rudenok**

Natalia Rudenok kept vigil by her son's hospital bed in Kyiv.

Mykola Rudenok's face was wrapped in bandages, only his blue eyes peeking through the gauze. White sheets hid his bloodied and broken leg.

Months earlier, the handsome 27-year-old with a square jaw was crouched in a trench in eastern Ukraine when a mortar round hit his position. The shock wave threw him to the ground. When he stood up, another round landed, and then came a spray of bullets from Russian troops just 50 yards away. One bullet pierced his face, lodging shards of hot metal in his right cheek, jaw and shoulder. The soldier next to him was killed.

Rudenok remembers handing his remaining bullets to a fellow soldier trying to fend off the assaulting Russians. He stumbled through a maze of destroyed village houses toward an evacuation point and cupped his hands around his face. He watched in horror as they overflowed with blood.

Five days later, he woke up in a hospital in Kyiv. "I wasn't sure if this was reality or a dream or I've died," he recalled. His face was so badly wounded that he couldn't speak or eat. After two weeks of silence, he and his mom started to communicate through handwritten notes. He developed pneumonia and had to use a feeding tube for a month, eventually graduating to soft foods. When he finally spoke again, he slurred his words in a soft voice no longer his own.

"I was actually thinking about possible injuries," he recalled. "I was thinking about my legs, my arms, maybe my body, but it never occurred to me that my face could be injured."

In the months that followed, doctors in Kyiv planned a complicated fibular flap surgery — in which they would move a piece of Rudenok's leg bone to his jaw to repair the bullet wound — in hopes that it would repair Rudenok's face and restore his ability to eat and speak.

Unlike many other soldiers, he hadn't also lost a leg and could afford to give up part of a bone in his calf to try to heal his jaw.

After months of scans, 3D models and other preparations, the surgery started well. On a cold winter morning in Kyiv, two teams of doctors stood at opposite ends of the operating table.

One group cut open the soldier's right leg and sawed into his fibula, then passed a piece of his calf up the table to their colleagues, who carefully placed it into what was left of the young man's jaw. The implant looked like a butterfly: one piece of bone, a skin graft and two blood vessels.

Air-raid sirens blared outside, and an explosion from a hypersonic missile shook the capital. The doctors were working in an unprotected top-floor surgery room but couldn't afford to stop: They knew they had to flawlessly connect the patient's blood vessels and screw in the bone or risk that his face might reject the transplant he had just donated to himself.

As the doctors working on his face attached the new blood vessels, another team sewed his leg back together — then realized it was bleeding. They reopened the leg, tied off a vessel and redid the sutures.

At the same time, the surgeons working on his jaw pressed down on his face to see if it turned white, then red — a sign the newly implanted vessels were receiving oxygen. The skin stayed white. If they didn't act quickly, the tissue could die.

In 30 seconds, the doctors unraveled sutures that had taken more than an hour to sew. They reopened the wound, disconnected the vessels, identified a blood clot and removed it. Then they flushed the vessels, sewed him back up and tried again. This time, the flap turned warm and when the doctors scraped his skin, they saw a drop of red blood. He was wheeled out to recovery.

**Aram Kosiuk**

A purple line splits Aram Kosiuk's face between past and present.

On the left, he looks much like the teen he was when Russia invaded his country in 2022. On the right, his blinded, warped eyeball and a web of shrapnel scars reveal that he is not.

At 19, he left home in the Carpathian Mountains, enlisted in a police assault brigade and deployed more than 1,000 miles away to the eastern front. He lied to his parents about joining the fight — they learned only after he was wounded.

Now at 20, his face is disfigured from a Russian artillery attack in the eastern town of Klishchiivka — one of the last battles before his brigade seized control of the strategic village. The fight was so intense that he lost his gun and helmet and hid in the basement of a small house, where he waited



LEFT: Mykola Rudenok lies on an operating table after facial reconstruction surgery. BELOW: Yevhenii Bohdan, a maxillofacial surgeon, prepares to use part of Rudenok's fibula bone to rebuild his jaw.



PHOTOS BY OKSANA PARAFENIUK FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Surgeons work on Rudenok's jaw, while others tend to his leg. The 27-year-old was hit by a bullet in June 2023 that lodged metal in his right cheek, jaw and shoulder.



ABOVE: A box of prosthetic eyes transported to Ukraine by U.S. surgeons. RIGHT: Evtashy Fedonchuk is examined days after facial reconstruction surgery.



*"In any other war we wouldn't even be seeing these people because they'd be dead.*

*The work that has gone on before us is nothing short of remarkable."*

Stuart Seiff, an ophthalmologist from San Francisco

30 minutes for first aid. He knew the whole time he had just lost an eye. Shrapnel also pierced his lungs.

American doctors helped repair the area around his eye — in what was his eighth surgery and, he hoped, his last.

**Volodymyr Moskovkin**

Volodymyr Moskovkin, 49, had retired from the military before Russia invaded in 2022. The full-scale invasion spurred him to rejoin the fight, and he went into the same brigade as his son.

Serhii Moskovkin, 27, was wounded first and was on medical leave when his father came under intense shelling in March 2023. The attack severely wounded the elder Moskovkin's head and face. He fell into a coma

and has had at least seven surgeries since, including on his brain and the right side of his skull. American doctors were scheduled to repair his eyelid and his nose, part of which was ripped off in the explosion.

Moskovkin planned to redeploy again as soon as he was well. A good sniper, he said, needs only one eye.

"I wouldn't change my decision," he said, clenching his fists in his lap. "It's my people, my country. We deserve to live without Russia."

**Dmytro Serduchenko**

Dmytro Serduchenko's vision blurred the moment he heard the whistle and bang of the artillery on the front line in southeast Ukraine in November 2023.

He could feel the skin falling off his face. Still, he reached for his radio and urgently arranged an evacuation.

The 24-year-old recalled turning to a fellow soldier and asking for a prognosis. The man next to him reassured him that he looked fine as they rushed toward medics for first aid.

Serduchenko was later diagnosed as severely concussed. He lost one eye and shrapnel wounds reduced his other to only 30 percent vision. He went through three surgeries to repair injuries to his face, including preparations for a prosthetic eye.

**Myktya Rozhenko**

Myktya Rozhenko, 31, didn't stop working from his hospital bed. A member of the Kharkiv

City Council when he joined the military, he attended meetings on video call while waiting for doctors to prepare his eye for a future prosthesis.

The volunteer soldier was wounded in 2022 on the road to the northeastern city of Izyum. His car was so badly damaged that it appears he either struck a mine or took a direct artillery hit — but he can't remember anything. He woke up two weeks later in a military hospital in Kharkiv, one eye missing and half his face destroyed.

At first, he said he wanted to go back to fight. But as time passed, he said he lost "such motivation and belief."

He knew he was lucky to have survived at all. Out of the 500 people in his original battalion, he

said, maybe 100 were still alive.

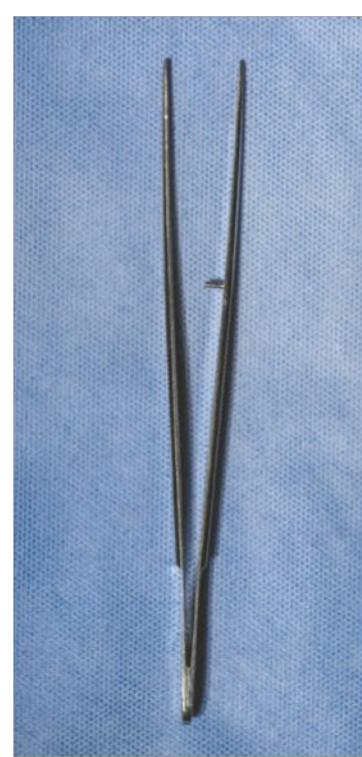
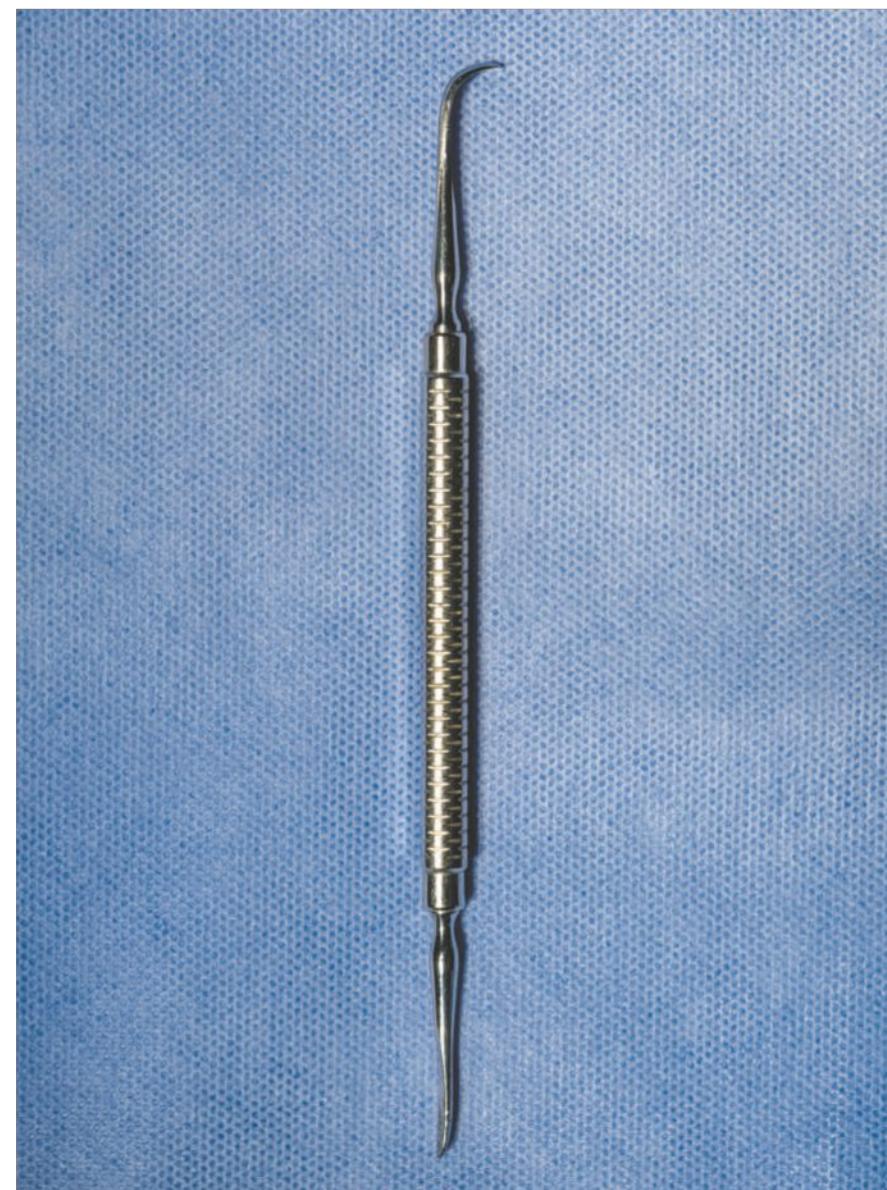
**Anatolii Kholovny**

In the bed across from him, Anatolii Kholovny, 35, described how in 2023, while fighting for the besieged city of Bakhmut, he took shrapnel to his right eye, ripping it from the socket. His relatives survived months of Russian occupation in the Kharkiv region. He is one of four boys in his family; all of them are fighting for Ukraine.

He had already had seven surgeries — including one that took a skin graft from the top of his head and another that used a piece of his lip — and expected at least two or three more.

Still, he was searching for ways to return to the front.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



## FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

"I've tried 1,000 times to go back," he said. "Someone has to fight."

## Foreign doctors offer aid

Ukrainian doctors are managing a huge influx of facial injury patients and are occasionally supported by teams of volunteer surgeons and nurses from abroad, who assist in performing rapid-fire rounds of surgeries — sometimes dozens in a week.

Steven Orten, a cosmetic surgeon from Texas, has visited Ukraine regularly since 2022 to train Ukrainian doctors and perform floods of surgeries that could have taken months using only Ukrainian resources.

In 2024, when Orten and more than a dozen other surgeons visited Kyiv, patients filled the rooms of two hospitals in the capital, staking their futures on procedures the doctors hoped could repair their wounds. Some would undergo fibular flaps like Rudenok, and others would need complex procedures like ocular implants.

"These injuries are worse than anything we train on," Orten said.

Stuart Seiff, an ophthalmologist from San Francisco who traveled with Orten, said the injuries are so horrific that most of his patients survived only because of the skill of Ukrainian first responders, who have trained for years on the front line. "In any other war we wouldn't even be seeing these people because they'd be dead," he said. "The work that has gone on before us is nothing short of remarkable."

The surgeries take months to prepare.

But they are worth it: They offer the promise of reintegration for soldiers who are often so badly disfigured that they have withdrawn from society.

When soldiers return from the front without legs, they receive prostheses and adjust to their new reality. The journey is diffi-

cult, but "he's a hero, he talks, he communicates," said Andrii Kopchak, a leading Ukrainian professor in maxillofacial and dental surgeries.

"But with a distorted face, he feels ugly and children are frightened," Kopchak said. "They are totally anti-socialized."

These procedures became even more difficult in Ukraine in 2024 when one of the country's top bioengineers qualified to create the 3D models for the operations was drafted into the army.

he can now design face models only from military positions between other tasks. When he is on a mission to retrieve wounded troops from the front, soldiers in hospital beds across the country have to wait for him to come back online before doctors can proceed with scheduling surgeries.

For Rudenok, the days after his surgery were spent lying in a hospital room surrounded by other soldiers whose faces had been destroyed in combat. Doctors

stopped by every few hours to scratch his cheek. If it bled, it meant the surgery had worked. If it didn't, the process would have to start all over again.

He was lucky: The flap seemed to be taking. Two weeks later, he was released. In the months that followed, his face would stay severely swollen, another patch of skin would need to be taken from his leg to repair the graft, and he would need laser treatment to remove leg hair that started to grow inside of his cheek.

But eventually, his voice grew stronger, no longer as muffled by the injury as it had been before.

Teeth implants, impossible before the major surgery, meant he could eat some of his favorite foods again, especially shashlik, Ukrainian grilled meat kebabs.

Other patients never had the chance.

The last time Anatolii Babych's family spoke with him, he was digging trenches in the eastern town of Chasiv Yar.

Drafted into the fight from the

far western city of Uzhhorod, the 53-year-old was sent with little training to the besieged city of Bakhmut, his brother-in-law Mykola Kostik recalled. Then, in April 2023, Babych went offline for a week.

On May 5, the family received a call: Babych was in a hospital in Kyiv. Doctors presumed he was shelled and then had a stroke. He was missing the lower half of his jaw, couldn't speak and didn't seem to remember what had happened.

Since then, he has wasted away, surviving on baby food.

Kostik, a driver, had to sell his van to help pay for a full-time nurse. Doctors hoped that a fibular flap like Rudenok's would help restore Babych's ability to speak and eat and that his family could at least take him home. Kostik staked all hopes on the visiting team of American surgeons trained to perform procedures that might restore some sense of normalcy to Babych's life.

But when they wheeled him into the operating room last spring, their hopes were dashed. Babych's blood pressure dropped so low that they had to cancel the procedure. He was nearly twice the age of Rudenok and half his size — just too weak for the anesthesia needed to even begin.

Babych woke back up in the same hospital bed: no cut to his leg, no bandages on his face, no doctors scratching his cheek to see if it bled. He had no way to communicate and no idea what would happen next. His brother-in-law stood by the doorway, nearly in tears, as doctors rushed around the hallways, their attention now on other patients.

He knew the American doctors would leave soon, that more troops would be wounded and that the waiting list would only grow.

"What can I do? It's war," he said, shrugging. "It's not up to him," he said, pointing at Babych. "And it's not up to me," he added, pointing to himself.



**Natalia Rudenok sits next to her son, Mykola, two days after his facial reconstruction surgery. "I was actually thinking about possible injuries," he recalled. "I was thinking about my legs, my arms, maybe my body, but it never occurred to me that my face could be injured."**

## Tools of the trade

PHOTOS BY OKSANA PARAFENIUK FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

# ECONOMY & BUSINESS

## Drilling could resume near site of infamous Calif. oil spills

A gas company's plan to reopen a pipeline near a bucolic and largely undeveloped seashore has residents who remember past disasters working to stop it

BY JOSHUA PARTLOW

SANTA BARBARA, CALIF. — Jeremy Frankel was camping with his buddies among beachfront palm trees nearly a decade ago when he smelled oil. He watched as black sludge pouring from a drainage pipe smeared the pristine waters off Refugio State Beach before authorities forced him to evacuate.

He would learn later about the oil-covered birds, the dead dolphins and sea lions — casualties of a pipeline that ruptured and spilled more than 120,000 gallons of crude oil along the Gaviota Coast, one of the last undeveloped stretches of Southern California oceanfront.

"The full extent will never really be known," Frankel said as he walked amid those same palms, many of them now teetering and washing away from winter storms and rising seas. He has become a lawyer for the Environmental Defense Center, a Santa Barbara-based nonprofit, and one of the people trying to block an effort to restart that defunct pipeline and boost an offshore oil industry that for years has been fading into the California sunset.

The company behind that effort, Sable Offshore Corp., an independent Houston-based oil and gas company formed in 2020 and whose management team has experience in the California oil industry, said in an SEC filing on Dec. 19 that it had received a waiver from California's Office of the State Fire Marshal that puts it on a path to restarting early in January.

"We've had decades of safe oil and gas operations," Steve Rusch, the company's vice president of regulatory and environmental affairs, told a Santa Barbara county public hearing in October. "Sable's committed to running the pipeline with state-of-the-art improvements."

Sable's plan — to resume drilling at three offshore platforms and pump oil through a buried pipeline running for miles up the coast — is reopening old wounds in this winsome seaside city. Many places are pro-environment and wary of pipelines. Santa Barbara was the first, with oil spills spawning an environmental ethic that is central to the city's identity.

In 1969, another major spill at an offshore oil platform disgorged 100,000 barrels of crude into the Santa Barbara channel — a catastrophe that helped launch an environmental movement in the United States. It prompted the first Earth Day, led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and helped spawn bedrock laws such as the Clean Air Act and the Endangered Species Act.

The pipeline plan looms at a time when many Californians fear backsliding on climate and environmental issues, as President-elect Donald Trump returns to office with promises to "drill baby drill." During his first term, Trump pushed to expand offshore drilling in California, even as many platforms have stopped producing and the federal government hasn't issued any new offshore oil leases in the state since the 1980s.

Trump's return makes stopping the Sable proposal "more critical for California," said Alex Katz, executive director of the Environmental Defense Center, which was created in response to the 1969 spill. "You've got a federal administration that wants to drill everywhere. This is an opportunity for California to show



JAE C. HONG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Workers prepare an oil containment boom at Refugio State Beach, north of Goleta, California, after an oil pipeline ruptured in 2015.



Refugio State Beach in 2015, when it was soiled by the spill of more than 120,000 gallons of oil.

we're still going to lead on the climate crisis in spite of this administration."

"If California allows this to happen," he added, "I think it would send a really bad message."

Sable says it plans to produce 1 million barrels of crude oil per month from the platforms that have been idled since the 2015 spill. Supporters of the project say restarting operations would boost the local economy — Sable expects to employ about 200 people at the associated facilities — and provide domestic oil produced under strict environmental standards.

"We lost a lot of good people when ExxonMobil left," Ryan McLeod, an offshore field foreman for Sable, said during the October hearing. "Families that were forced to find lower-paying jobs or simply leave this beautiful area, and now we have an opportunity to bring them back, and Sable is providing us that opportunity."

While environmentalists have firmly staked their claim in Santa Barbara, oil's claim was staked even earlier. The country's first

offshore oil drilling rig was built in the Santa Barbara channel in the late 19th century. By the 1920s, wooden piers and oil derricks filled the nearshore waters of Summerland, just to the south of Santa Barbara. And large oil platforms were built further out in state and federal waters that pumped crude to shore in a network of pipelines.

But the industry, once so central to the state, has been on a long decline in recent years. Of the 23 remaining offshore oil platforms, eight are no longer functioning, and six are in the process of being decommissioned.

They include Platform Holly, which shut down after the 2015 oil spill at Refugio beach that poured crude into a culvert under Highway 101 and out into the ocean.

The spill killed about 550 birds, more than half of them brown pelicans, 150 pinnipeds, mostly California sea lions, and about 75 dolphins, according to a state and federal damage assessment. It also closed beaches and fisheries, and spread oil out to sea and as far south as Los Angeles County, more than 100 miles away.

"But they can't take away my voice," she said.

After the 2015 spill, Exxon

halted its operations at three offshore platforms in federal waters — Hondo, Harmony, and Heritage, which make up the Santa Ynez unit — and the pipeline operator, Plains All American Pipeline, was found guilty of multiple criminal counts by a jury in Santa Barbara County.

Exxon eventually proposed delivering the oil by truck — a plan that Santa Barbara county rejected. In February, Sable acquired the Santa Ynez unit and pipeline system from Exxon, which loaned the company more than \$600 million for the purchase. Sable says it has authority to restart under the federal consent decree that came out of litigation following the latest spill.

The waiver by the fire marshal's office, which pertains to pipeline safety measures, must still be approved by the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. Additionally, "Sable must still complete numerous other actions" before it can restart the pipeline, according to Christine McMorrow, a Cal Fire spokesperson.

"We appreciate the state Fire Marshal's approval, recognizing our robust safety measures, which go above and beyond state and federal requirements, including the federal court's Consent Decree. By the time of restart, this pipeline will meet more stringent safety requirements than any other pipeline in the state," Sable said in a statement.

Rather than replace the corroded pipeline that burst, as Exxon had initially considered, Sable decided to repair it. The company says it is installing enhanced safety measures, including 27 new emergency shutoff devices, and will conduct inspections more often than required. Before the pipeline restarts, the company says it will conduct pressure tests to ensure it is in "as new" condition.

Moving forward with those repairs — digging up sections of the pipeline to fix about 100 "anomalies" both in the coastal zone and further inland — involved making a deal with landowners along the route. A settlement was reached for Sable to pay \$70 million to about 100 landowners, said Barry

After the 2015 spill, Exxon

Cappello, a lawyer representing the landowners.

"The landowners are very happy with the settlement," Cappello said. "If you own an acre or an acre and a half, you may see a check for 250 grand."

That repair work has generated controversy.

In the fall, drivers started seeing heavy machinery digging up mounds of earth along Highway 101 within view of the Pacific. Brian Trautwein, director of the watershed program for the Environmental Defense Center, documented about 20 sites, most of them in drainages or near streams.

The California Coastal Commission issued Sable a cease-and-desist order in November, as the company did not have a permit for the work and ordered it to fill open pits and control erosion.

Rusch, the Sable official, said during the October public hearing that the company believed it was conducting permitted repairs under existing approvals, and did so with biologists and archaeologists present. Sable was working with the coastal commission to address their concerns, he said.

Sable said in December that the "matter is ongoing, and we look forward to having it resolved."

Kevin Loughran lives down slope from one of these sites in a rustic cluster of homes overlooking the ocean. The 76-year-old artist and metalworker resides amid an exuberance of vegetation, lime and macadamia trees, cherimoya and dragonfruit. The four dwellings on his property rely on a well fed by spring water.

The mound of earth excavated at the repair site behind his house has since been filled in and ringed by orange netting, along with a sign: "Warning: Crude Oil Pipeline." But there is still a swath of loose dirt and rocks that he fears could wash down into his yard and contaminate his well during the winter rains. He does not want to see the pipeline restart.

"I really hope they find it unworkable," he said. "I don't know why they're even trying it."

In 2024, Santa Barbara County passed an ambitious goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Hartmann, the county supervisor, said Sable's operations, if they restart, would account for a big chunk of the county's total emissions. As for the 2030 goal, she said, it would "blow that to hell."

"If this operation starts up, it would be the largest emitter in the county," she said.

But more than anything, opponents in Santa Barbara fear another spill.

A draft environmental analysis prepared for Santa Barbara County in 2024 found that restarting the pipeline could result in a spill once a year and a major rupture every four years, potentially releasing about twice as much oil as during the 2015 spill, even with safety valves to contain it.

Sable described the document as "an uncertified, incomplete and non-peer reviewed draft" that "does not accurately capture the impact of restarting a completely refurbished pipeline to a new condition."

For Frankel and other environmentalists in Santa Barbara, it's another reminder of the dangers of dredging up more oil in this place where so much has already spilled.

"No one thought anyone would actually try to restart this pipeline," Frankel said.

### DIGEST

#### STOCK MARKET

#### Indexes greet 2025 with a slight decline

U.S. stock indexes slipped to start 2025.

The S&P 500 fell 0.2 percent Thursday, marking its first five-day losing streak since April. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.4 percent after giving up an early gain, and the Nasdaq composite lost 0.2 percent.

Tesla skidded following its latest update on deliveries. Energy producers helped limit the market's losses after prices rose for crude oil and natural gas. Treasury yields held relatively steady in the bond market following the latest encouraging report on the U.S.

job market. Chinese stocks slumped after a report on factory activity there.

— Associated Press

#### TECH

#### Apple agrees to \$95 million settlement

Apple has agreed to end a five-year legal battle over user privacy related to its virtual assistant Siri with a \$95 million payout to affected customers, according to a preliminary settlement.

The company, one of the most valuable in the world, signed off on the payment to settle a class-action lawsuit claiming its virtual assistant Siri can be accidentally activated, and subsequently record parts of

people's conversations without their consent. Apple then violated its users' privacy, plaintiffs alleged, by sending those recordings to third parties.

Apple did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but said in the settlement agreement filed Tuesday that it "continues to deny any and all alleged wrongdoing."

Siri, which originally debuted as a stand-alone virtual assistant app, became a hallmark feature of the iPhone when Apple embedded it into the iPhone 4S in 2011.

In a bid to make the tool more capable and responsive, Apple launched a feature called "Hey Siri" in 2014, which allowed users to activate the assistant by

speaking its wake words rather than pressing a button.

However, users eventually found that Siri could be overzealous in listening for its wake words. And when Siri mistakenly thought it was being invoked, it would begin recording audio clips of moments it was never meant to hear.

Those clips, meanwhile, sometimes found their way to human contractors around the world who would review them — and get an earful of conversations and confidential dealings in the process.

— Chris Velasco, Washington Post

**ALSO IN BUSINESS**  
**South Korean cryptocurrency mogul Do Hyeong Kwon** pleaded not guilty Thursday to a freshly

unsealed indictment released in time for his first U.S. court appearance. Kwon entered the plea in Manhattan federal court two days after his extradition from Montenegro. The indictment alleges that the man dubbed by some as "the cryptocurrency king" lied to investors from 2018 to 2022 to fool them into pouring money into Terraform Labs, the Singapore crypto firm he cofounded. Authorities say investors worldwide were harmed by the \$40 billion crash of Terraform Labs' cryptocurrency. The May 2022 collapse came despite the company's claim that TerraUSD was a "stablecoin" that could be relied upon. Kwon did not speak during his court appearance, except to acknowledge that he understood English. His lawyer,

Andrew Chesley, entered not guilty pleas to two separate versions of the indictment charging him with conspiracy, along with commodities, securities and wire fraud. A money laundering charge was added Thursday.

**Mexican airline Aeromexico** had the world's best record for on-time arrivals in 2024, according to an annual ranking released Thursday. Delta Air Lines scored the highest among U.S. carriers despite a computer outage that caused thousands of flight cancellations in July. Aviation-data provider Cirium said in a report that nearly 87 percent of Aeromexico flights arrived within 15 minutes of their scheduled arrival.

— From news services

# Biden had reinstated rules Trump had revoked

NET NEUTRALITY FROM A1

"I think that net neutrality is going to have a long respite," said Marc Martin, a partner at Perkins Coie and a former FCC official, adding that he sees the prospect of the Supreme Court overruling the 6th Circuit as slim. "It would have to take future bad acts that get a lot of attention to maybe bring a different Congress to act and give the FCC authority. Short of that, I think it's over."

The 6th Circuit said in its decision Thursday that internet service providers were not just dumb pipes, as the FCC has contended, and for that reason, internet service cannot be regulated as a mere utility service like power, water and traditional telephone lines.

"The FCC's reading is inconsistent with the plain language of the Communications Act [of 1934]," the court in Cincinnati said, referring to the law outlining the FCC's authority.

The court cited a major Supreme Court ruling in June, in *Lopez Bright Enterprises v. Raaimondo*, that struck down the principle known as Chevron deference, a 40-year-old legal precedent that had broadly allowed federal agencies to set technical regulations for industries in the absence of detailed federal law.

A three-judge panel of the 6th Circuit said that, by applying *Lopez Bright*, it could "end the FCC's vacillations." More court challenges against federal regulations based on the Supreme Court's June ruling are in the pipeline.

A conservative-led FCC under the second Trump administration



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

The Federal Communications Commission first adopted net neutrality rules under Barack Obama.

was widely expected to move to overturn net neutrality if court challenges failed. On Thursday, the FCC declined to say whether it would appeal the court decision, with Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel calling instead for Congress to take action.

"Consumers across the country have told us again and again that they want an internet that is fast, open and fair," she said in a statement. "With this decision it is clear that Congress now needs to heed their call, take up the charge for net neutrality, and put open inter-

net principles in federal law." Brendan Carr, Trump's pick for FCC chairman, praised the court Thursday for striking down what he called "President Biden's Internet power grab" and promised more deregulatory moves for his tenure as head of the agency.

"The work to unwind the Biden Administration's regulatory overreach will continue," he said.

Advocates of net neutrality have long argued that such rules are necessary to keep internet service providers from abusing their power — for instance, by

slowing down access to certain websites or types of content. Opponents say that there is limited evidence that internet service providers choose to discriminate against content this way, and that heavier oversight would weigh on innovation.

"For a decade, I've argued that so-called 'net neutrality' regulations are unlawful (not to mention pointless)," Ajit Pai, who was FCC chairman during Trump's first term, wrote on X. "... It's time for regulators and activists to give up on this tired non-issue once and

for all and focus on what actually matters to American consumers — like improving internet access and promoting online innovation."

In recent years, amid rising concerns about hacking from China and Russia, net neutrality proponents have highlighted that these rules, formally called Title II authority, also give the FCC more power to protect networks against foreign hackers.

Andrew Jay Schwartzman, senior counsel at the Benton Institute for Broadband & Society, said Title II authority would allow the FCC to revoke authorizations of certain foreign-owned internet service providers deemed national security risks; to mandate cybersecurity standards for broadband providers; to prohibit interconnection between broadband providers and data centers controlled by non-U.S. owners where a national security threat is found; and to better address outage reporting.

"This is bad for consumers, for businesses that rely on the internet, and for protecting broadband networks from intrusions by nation states," he said of the court decision.

The issue of cybersecurity of telecom networks has been in the spotlight in the wake of the Salt Typhoon hacks, which lawmakers have called the worst in the nation's history. Carr has called it a priority.

With the reversal of net neutrality, the FCC retains broad Title II authority to regulate phone networks but has weaker authority over the separate — but partially overlapping — domain of internet networks.

## Tesla: EV deliveries declined in 2024

Rare drop is expected to yield to growth this year as lower-cost cars arrive

BY HANNAH ZIEGLER

Tesla on Thursday reported its first annual drop in electric vehicle deliveries in more than a decade, capping a year that fell short of even the lowered expectations set by executives.

The company delivered about 1.79 million vehicles in 2024, a slight decrease from 1.81 million in 2023. Although Tesla delivered a record 496,000 vehicles in the fourth quarter, that was less than many Wall Street analysts' expectations of more than 500,000.

The electric vehicle-maker's shares sank more than 6 percent on the news.

While the annual decline came as a surprise, Tesla at the start of the year had warned observers to temper their expectations for 2024. Last January, chief executive Elon Musk predicted Tesla would experience a "notably slower growth rate" as the company invested in next-generation vehicles it plans to start building in 2025.

Tesla subsequently reported back-to-back declines in year-over-year sales in the first two quarters. Its electric-vehicle deliveries rebounded in the third quarter, increasing about 6.4 percent from 2023, though still missing analysts' expectations.

Tesla is on track to launch more affordable electric vehicles in the first half of 2025 and expects 20 to 30 percent vehicle sales growth for the next year, Musk said in the company's third-quarter earnings call in October.

During that investor call, Musk forecast that Tesla would report growth in annual deliveries in 2024, which would have required the automaker to deliver more than 500,000 vehicles in the fourth quarter.

Despite the decline, Tesla's annual figure is a "respectable" result because the company's focus on self-driving technology and affordable electric vehicles sets up a strong 2025, Wedbush analyst Dan Ives wrote Thursday in a note to investors.

Musk's close relationship with President-elect Donald Trump will help accelerate Tesla's push into autonomous driving, Ives said. Despite the company's limited electric vehicle sales growth in 2024, its stock finished the year up more than 60 percent. The majority of that gain came after the presidential election, as Musk emerged as one of Trump's closest confidants during the transition.

Tesla has said it plans to launch its self-driving robotaxi service in late 2025 — another initiative the Trump administration could expedite by laying out a path to approve and regulate the next generation of robotic vehicles. The cybercab's launch will be a "golden goose" for the company next year, Ives said.

Thursday's release of delivery numbers came the day after an explosion destroyed a Cybertruck filled with firework mortars and gas canisters near the entrance of the Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas, killing the driver and injuring seven others.



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## FRIDAY OPINION



PAOLA SALIBY/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

YOUYOU ZHOU

# Feeling alone? Here are some data-backed ways to fix that.

When was the last time you talked to a friend? If it's been a while, you're not unusual. Solitude has become a notable, and worrisome, trend of our times.

Recent data from the American Time Use Survey shows that people of all age groups are spending far less time with friends than they did 20 years ago. This is not a trivial development.

Just two decades ago, Americans spent an average of 60 minutes per day with friends. In 2023, that number dropped to 26 minutes.

The decline was especially acute for teenagers, who are in a formative phase of life. The data shows that Americans between 15 and 19 spend about one-third of the time socializing with friends today as teenagers did 20 years ago.

Things wouldn't be so dire if we had traded the time with friends for spending more time with other people in our life, such as family members or co-workers. But that didn't happen, either. As a result, the time Americans spend alone has increased.

The trend is clear: We are spending far less time with friends — and just about everyone else — because we are spending more time by ourselves, probably with our phones or in front of screens.

Multiple studies have shown how friendships improve mental and physical health. Developing quality friendships during adolescent years often leads to higher self-esteem and more happiness down the road. Research has found that spending more time with friends makes us feel more confident and secure during difficult periods of life. And it's not just beneficial when we're young, but also when we reach full adulthood and grow even older. On the contrary, a lower level of social relationship (fewer friends, less time with friends, etc.) can lead to behavioral problems and higher mortality.

But there are ways to fix that.

Here's a confession: I didn't learn to really cherish friendships until the pandemic hit. Being confined at home made me reflect on who I genuinely enjoyed spending time with. Then, I decided to seek them out. I reconnected with four childhood friends who were, at the time, living on different continents, and we started having regular video calls.

In 2020, Americans averaged just 20 minutes a day with friends — the lowest since the Census Bureau started collecting data in 2003. My monthly calls with friends lasted far longer than that. But regardless of length, the conversations renewed my energy and hope. In one call, we watched the sunrise from a friend's screen and the sunset from that of another friend who was halfway across the planet.

The calls were a reminder that our relationships with friends are as important as those with family or a romantic partner. I became interested in learning more about what other people were doing to prioritize friendships. The data offered some answers.

Every year, the Census Bureau takes a close look at how Americans spend their days. It collects extremely detailed, time-logged diaries from people all over the country. In 2023, Americans spent 26 minutes with friends per day on average — and about 10 percent of the people surveyed spent more than an hour hanging out. I call them "social overachievers." I decided to take a closer look to see if I could glean some lessons.

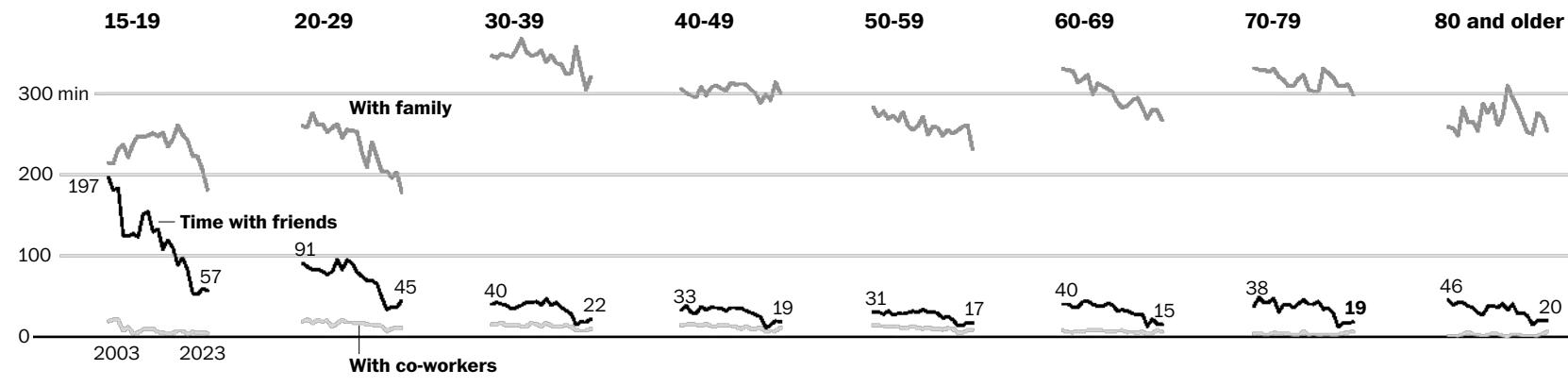
After combing through the daily activities of these social overachievers, I found that the most sustainable way to increase our time with friends is not to create new or exciting adventures. What makes social overachievers successful is that they integrate friends into ordinary activities, such as sharing meals, watching films at home and grocery shopping.

Some life chapters are less suited to spending time with friends. Young parents, for example, often have a hard time keeping in touch with friends from their pre-parenting lives. But some social overachievers showed us how to do it. Two women participated in the study. Both women were 41, had a child under 10 and a full-time job. Their days started similarly: Both got to work at 8 a.m. and spent most of the morning alone. The difference was after work: One woman took care of her child and watched TV by herself, whereas the other took care of her child and watched TV with friends.

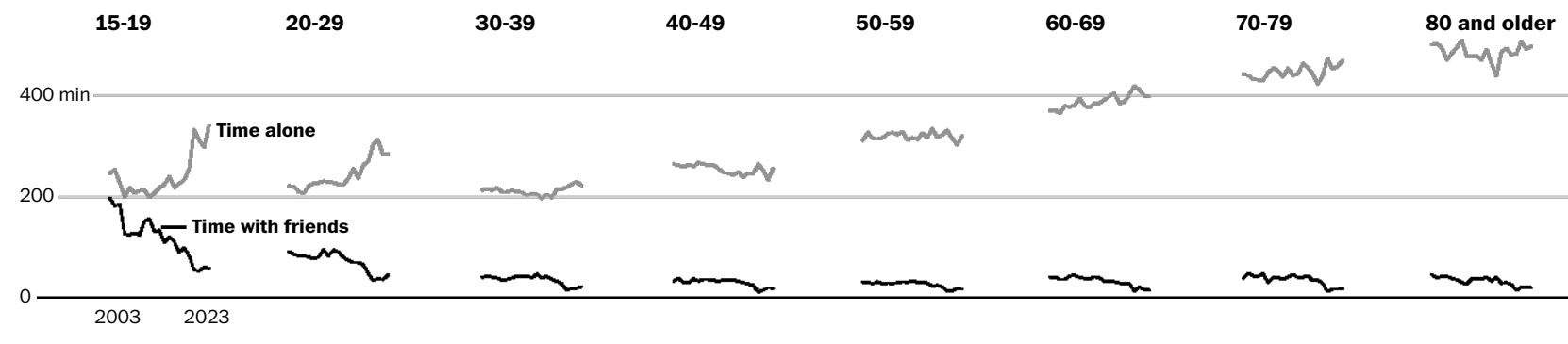
Older men are also found to have a hard time maintaining friendships, but social overachievers

## Americans are spending less time with friends

Declines were observed across all age groups. We are also not spending more time with other people in our life, such as family members or co-workers.



## As a result, the time people spend alone has increased

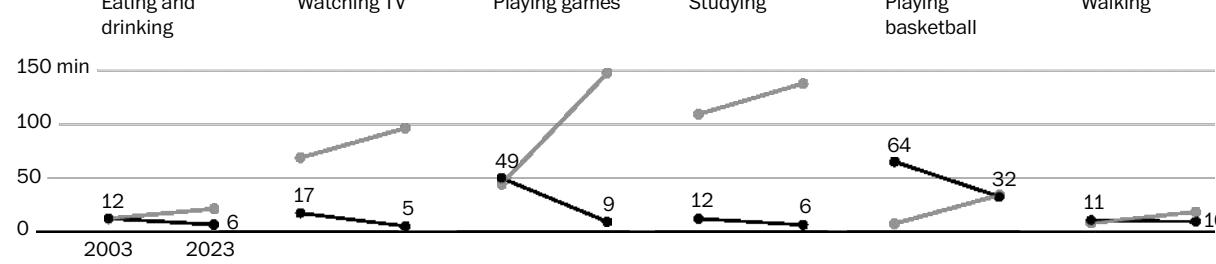


## Top activities with friends then and now, by age group

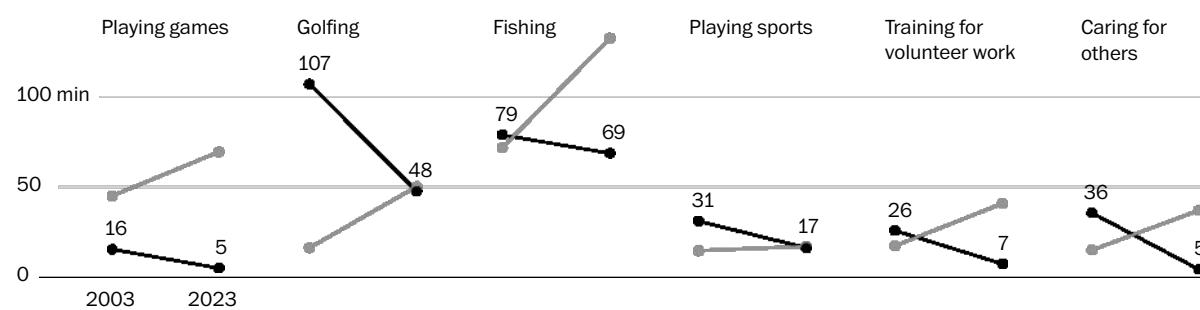
People from all age groups still do many of the same things they did with friends two decades ago. The difference is that now they are doing more of these things alone.

● With friends    ● Alone

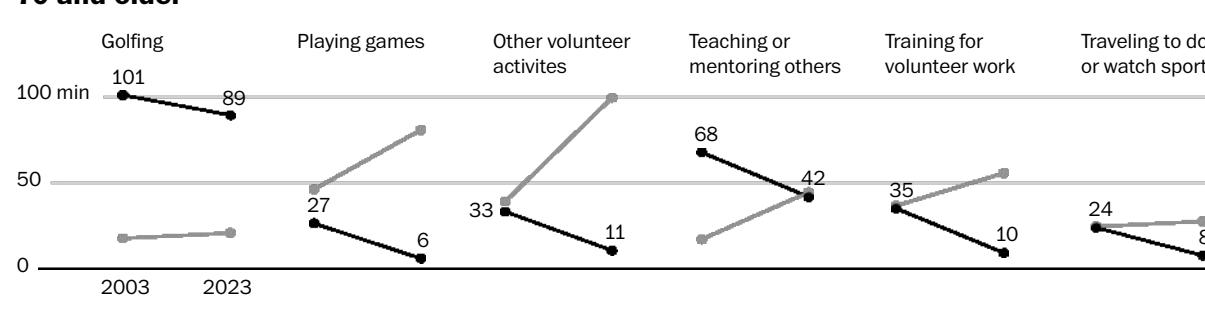
### 15-29



### 30-69



### 70 and older



Sources: American Time Use Survey, author's calculations

manage it anyway. The survey recorded how two 72-year-old retired men living by themselves spent a Saturday in 2023. Their days also began similarly: Both men spent some time reading and doing chores around the house alone. During the afternoon, one man went out to see a movie with friends, and the other spent the rest of the day by himself.

Research shows that, even later in life, friendships can make us happier and reduce stress. That's especially true for people who don't live with a partner. Instead of staying at home, one of the 72-year-old men had a weekend evening outing with his friends.

My group of Zoom friends continues to gather regularly from remote locations. In our first post-pandemic get-together, we ran the National Women's Half Marathon in D.C. (Only two of us ran — the race was just an excuse to get together.) Last month, we spent a week together in Taiwan, catching up and sightseeing. I've been taking the lessons from the data and bringing friends into my routine. And, every now and then, I do my best to carve out time just for them.

Prioritizing activities that preserve friendships or create new ones is especially important as we

## Top activities "social overachievers" do with friends, by age groups

"Social overachievers" spent more than an hour per day with friends in 2023. They integrate friends into ordinary activities, such as sharing meals, watching films at home and grocery shopping.

### 15-29

1. Eating and drinking
2. Socializing with others
3. Travel to meals
4. Watching TV
5. Travel to shopping
6. Purchasing food

### 30-69

1. Eating and drinking
2. Socializing with others
3. Travel to meals
4. Watching TV
5. Travel to shopping
6. Travel to care for others

### 70 and older

1. Socializing with others
2. Eating and drinking
3. Travel to personal care
4. Watching TV
5. Picking up/dropping off friends
6. Attending religious services

Only those who spent more than an hour a day with friends in 2023 were included in the calculation.

Youyou Zhou is a Post Opinions graphics reporter.

## OPINION

## The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

## Congress should get a pay raise

**A**S A new Congress is sworn in Friday, this might seem like a bad time to talk about raising federal lawmakers' pay. A government funding package failed last month, throwing Washington into a frantic effort to keep the government open, in part because it included a small pay increase for members of Congress.

Elon Musk, the world's richest man, posted falsely that the provision meant members would

**EDITORIAL** get a 40 percent pay increase — more than 10 times the reality. His

post has 34 million views. Following his lead, President-elect Donald Trump wrote that "this is not a good time for Congress to be asking for pay increases." Front-line members joined the chorus: Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-Washington) said a pay boost, "any way you slice it," would be "bananas."

Actually, it would be smart.

Members of the House and Senate haven't received any bump to their \$174,000 annual salary since 2009, and that's bad for the country. The 27th Amendment stipulates that lawmakers may not raise their own pay — just that of future Congresses. Friday's new Congress should do so for the next.

The arguments against boosting Congress's pay

seem overwhelming. Gallup's latest polling shows just 17 percent of Americans approve of the job the legislative branch is doing. Members already make far more than the median national income. "If members can't get by on our already generous salaries and benefits, they should find another line of work," said Rep. Jared Golden (D-Maine).

Actually, that's the danger. Writing the nation's laws is not an average job. Serving in Congress is a privilege — but one that should be attractive not only to politics fanatics, the independently wealthy, go-for-broke ideologues or those open to supplementing their official salaries by leveraging their positions for personal gain.

The majority of members, especially those with postgraduate degrees in medicine or law, could make vastly more in the private sector than they do now. Many highly qualified people — particularly talented young Americans — forgo public service for the same reason. Moreover, everyday people don't need to maintain two residences, as most members do, including in D.C., one of the most expensive places in the country to live.

Relatively low pay also makes it harder for competent members who don't come from money to devote their entire career to public service. Rep. Patrick T. McHenry (R-North Carolina), who

just retired from the House after 10 terms at age 49, shows why. In an interview with the Dispatch after he announced he wouldn't seek reelection, Mr. McHenry explained that most members actually live on their House salary. "The very wealthy few

*The majority of members, especially those with postgraduate degrees in medicine or law, could make vastly more in the private sector than they do now.*

end up dominating the news because of their personal stock trades, when most of us don't have wealth," he said. "You especially need staff to be able to go toe-to-toe with the people they're regulating or overseeing in the executive branch, which means you need to get the highest quality folks."

After chairing the House Financial Services

Committee, Mr. McHenry will probably be able to pull in several million dollars a year in his post-congressional life as a lobbyist or head of a trade association. Yet he is the sort of thoughtful, seasoned lawmaker whom both parties need more of in the House. He was even interim speaker after GOP rebels took down Kevin McCarthy (R-California) last year, until Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana) won the election to replace him.

Other countries, such as Singapore, pay significantly more to their civil servants than the United States does — both to attract talent and to discourage corruption. Tellingly, the top pay allowed for a House staffer is \$212,100, and for a Senate staffer, \$221,900, meaning senior staff members occasionally earn more than their bosses.

Inflation has eroded members' salaries in real terms by about 30 percent since 2009. The 2017 tax code overhaul also eliminated a tax deduction of up to \$3,000 for living expenses incurred by members of Congress. If lawmakers' pay had risen with the cost of living, their salary would be \$243,300, according to the Congressional Research Service. If Americans want a Congress that draws on the best of America, in which anyone can afford to serve, they should want their representatives to be more competitively compensated.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## I wish I could have given my father the death he deserved

Regarding Shadi Hamid's Dec. 9 online column, "Is there a right to die? Don't look to liberals for an answer":

I can only remember the helplessness we felt when my 91-year-old father started begging us to kill him, as age and cancer took away his ability to enjoy life. As the cancer ate into his bones, he could no longer walk without pain; he lost the ability to taste the food and drink that used to give him so much pleasure; he became too tired to enjoy his great-grandson's visits.

When he needed to be placed under hospice care, we watched as he quickly fell into what I call a morphine coma. He turned into a skeleton before our eyes, dying without the dignity that this man — a former diplomat, generous father, and loving grandfather and great-grandfather — deserved. If he had been able to access assisted death when he first felt that his time had come, he would have been allowed to die before everything that gave him the ability to flourish and live a full life had been stripped away.

I don't think it's morally wrong for a person to want to die, regardless of the reason, or for someone to help them. We fight for the right to control our own bodies (often with little success), and this is no different. Most people know what they want. If they are ready to go, why is it wrong to help preserve their dignity and spare them pain?

**Teresa Raffaelli, Arlington**

## The 'slope' isn't that slippery

The slippery slope issue regarding medical aid in dying (MAID) suggests that medical professionals in the United States, as in some other countries, may extend lethal medications to those who are not terminally ill. That is highly unlikely.

MAID is authorized in only 10 states and D.C., and there has been no significant effort to amend these laws to encompass those who are not dying. Another way the right to MAID could be expanded would be by successful litigation, but no state or federal court's final decision has even declared MAID a constitutional right. It should be concluded, regardless of what one thinks about the practice, that a slippery slope will not occur in the United States in the foreseeable future.

Additionally, though it is accurate that MAID laws have been passed in blue states, it is also true that they have worked as intended, without problems materializing as expected by opponents. In fact, there have not been substantiated complaints in any court of abuse or coercion. Of course, vigilance is necessary to ensure that vulnerable populations are not exploited, which they have not been to date. It is also true that in states such as New York, a majority of Republicans support MAID.

The evidence shows that MAID is an ethical, safe and rarely used end-of-life option that properly respects the autonomy of dying patients to determine how and when they will die. Liberals and conservatives in state legislatures should work together to pass MAID laws with sufficient safeguards and protections, as existing MAID laws now have.

**David C. Leven, Pelham, New York**  
The writer is executive director emeritus of End of Life Choices New York.

Shadi Hamid argued that there are no principled grounds within liberalism for blocking the slide from physician-assisted death for terminally ill patients to physician-administered active euthanasia for a wider range of individuals. This is false. There is a clear difference between terminally ill patients, who are on an unstoppable trajectory to die within a confined period of time, and others who may seek death. This difference makes it reasonable for terminally ill adults with adequate mental capacity to request and receive a prescription of lethal medication.

## MICHAEL RAMIREZ

## Not adding up



Mr. Hamid also does not address the important ethical distinction between physician-assisted suicide and voluntary active euthanasia not limited to the terminally ill, which is the prevailing practice in Canada, the Netherlands and Belgium. There are good reasons for prohibiting active euthanasia, in which physicians cause death by personally administering lethal medication. In contrast, prescriptions allow patients — not physicians — to control the timing and circumstances of their death based on when they choose to ingest prescribed lethal medication.

Moreover, the prescription of lethal medication, in itself, might relieve dying patients' anxiety about suffering a bad death. It is noteworthy that one-third of patients who receive a requested prescription of lethal medication in Oregon, which legalized physician-assisted suicide in 1997, do not take the medication and die by natural causes.

**Franklin Miller, Chevy Chase**

## It's not about religion

Why does Shadi Hamid, who has religious objections to choice in dying, feel that no one should be able to have an option? Some of us don't want to suffer or waste a lot of money trying to stay alive for a few extra months.

There is a need to put good controls around usage, and that will take some time. But I believe we all have a human right to die on our own terms,

especially when we have intractable medical issues.

**Brian Ruder, Portland, Oregon**

*The writer is board president of Final Exit Network.*

Shadi Hamid's column is well reasoned and written from a liberal and religious point of view. But I am liberal and nonreligious, and just like many Americans, I do not approach assisted suicide through religion.

The author feels that too many politically philosophical questions are raised that can't be answered. "Why should we preserve life if someone does not want to live?" "Should the state have the right to facilitate the death of its own citizens?" My answer is, absolutely, yes. But why should the state be involved in any way? It should be my personal decision.

**Susan Hamburger, Chevy Chase**

## It's not about liberalism

Many can relate to Shadi Hamid's belief in one of liberal democracy's core promises: personal autonomy. But he argued that liberalism has become unmoored from the religious and cultural norms that historically kept unchecked license from plunging society into a dystopia of radical, anything-goes autonomy.

I've spent the past decade working with broad coalitions opposing dangerous and inherently

discriminatory assisted-suicide proposals. These coalitions do include religious folks and conservatives, but they are predominantly led by left-of-center and far-left disability rights advocates and medical professionals, many of whom are secular, pro-choice atheists. As Mr. Hamid pointed out, all the jurisdictions in the United States that have legalized assisted suicide are blue, but it is equally worth noting that many of these laws passed with slim margins. (Maine's House passed its bill by one vote.) Progressive states with supermajorities, such as New York, Massachusetts and Maryland, have rejected assisted suicide. The recent vote in Britain was not split along party lines.

Why do some progressives oppose assisted-suicide laws? Because in our abysmally broken, profit-driven health-care system, the ever-cheap assisted suicide "option" might be the only "treatment" to which some people have equal access. When your life is already seen as less worthy of care and the system feels stacked against you, the demoralization many people face is crushing. Add assisted-suicide laws, and you get a two-tiered system of medicine under which people with life-threatening disabilities get suicide help and nondisabled counterparts get suicide prevention. It's classic discrimination veiled with false autonomy.

Religious or not, progressives have always been for protecting the vulnerable from utilitarian brutality. Let's keep it that way.

**Matt Vallière, New York**

*The writer is an emergency medical worker and the executive director of the Institute for Patients' Rights.*

## Statistically speaking

Shadi Hamid wrote, "A society that makes it easier to die than to find an apartment in Toronto's notoriously tight housing market has lost something fundamental about what it means to be a society at all."

Those who oppose the legalization of medical assistance in dying have ample arguments without resorting to statistical legerdemain. As Canada's Fourth Annual Report on Medical Assistance in Dying noted, "In 2022, there were 13,241 MAID provisions reported in Canada, accounting for 4.1 percent of all deaths in Canada." By contrast, Toronto alone had 557,970 renters in 2021, according to Statistics Canada.

Rather than castigating countries that follow a strict process allowing certain carefully screened individuals to end their lives with help from medical professionals, we should focus instead on ending our own anachronistic and fundamentally flawed death-penalty system, an objective that is gaining support in the waning days of the Biden administration.

**Mark S. Sternman, Somerville, Massachusetts**

## Death and life

I was surprised when Shadi Hamid wrote about a Canadian citizen who would choose suicide over homelessness. At the same time, many of America's homeless people flirt with death each time they satisfy their drug habits.

Reading The Post on Dec. 11, I learned of a 25-year-old who took his own life on a dare and a 26-year-old who took someone else's to make a political statement.

Lost in our phones and other media sources that exacerbate our divisions and sense of isolation, many individuals don't see a reason to remain alive. Working to save monarch butterflies, which typically live two to six weeks and are now threatened, according to another article from Dec. 11, might help.

**Eric Greene, Annapolis**

## Letter submissions

Letters can be sent to [letters@washpost.com](mailto:letters@washpost.com). Submissions must be exclusive to The Post and should include the writer's address and day and evening telephone numbers. Letters are subject to editing and abridgment. Please do not send letters as attachments. Because of the volume of material we receive, we are unable to acknowledge submissions; writers whose letters are under consideration for publication will be contacted.

## OPINION



DEMETRIUS FREEMAN/THE WASHINGTON POST

From the Oval Office, President Joe Biden announces his decision to end his reelection campaign on July 24.

MARC A. THIESSEN

## The 10 best things Biden did in 2024

**A**s the Joe Biden era comes to a close, I once again offer my annual lists of the 10 best and 10 worst things the president did in the past year (a tradition I started in the first term of Donald Trump and will continue in the second). In the spirit of the season, I will lead off with the best.

**10. He helped get NATO allies to spend more on our collective defense.** At the 75th anniversary NATO summit in Washington, NATO announced that non-U.S. members were projected to spend \$510 billion more on defense this year than they did in 2016. Of course, \$400 billion of that increase was due to commitments made during Trump's first presidency (while much of the rest can be attributed to Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine). Still, presidents get credit for what happens on their watch and on Biden's watch the number of allies meeting their commitment to spend 2 percent of gross domestic product on defense rose to an all-time high of 23. Biden also gets full credit for welcoming Sweden as a new member this year, an achievement that strengthened the alliance.

**9. He killed the top Islamic State commander in Iraq.** Biden launched an Aug. 29 raid that devastated the group's leadership in Iraq, killing its top commander, Ahmad Hamid Husayn Abd-al-Jalil al-Ithawi, and its top bombmaker, Abu Ali al-Tunisi (who had a \$5 million bounty from the U.S. government on his head). He also launched a raid that killed Mushtaq Jawad Kazim al-Jawari, the leader of an Iranian-backed militia in Iraq responsible for planning and carrying out attacks against American personnel.

**8. He imposed new restrictions on the sale of advanced chip technology to China.** For the third time in his presidency, Biden imposed new prohibitions on the sale of chips and specialized machinery to make cutting-edge chips to China. He also added more than 140 Chinese entities to a restricted trade list, with the goal of stopping Beijing from producing its own advanced chips that could be used for cyberattacks, new military technology to threaten the United States and its allies, and surveillance systems to repress the Chinese people.

**7. He sent Taiwan the largest package of U.S. military aid ever.** In September, Biden approved \$567 million in new security assistance to Taiwan — the largest such package to date, significantly outpacing the \$345 million package sent in 2023 — sending the aid directly from U.S. stockpiles, the speediest method of delivery. Biden also signed legislation in April that included \$1.9 billion to replenish military materiel provided to Taiwan and \$2 billion in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) for Taiwan and other Indo-Pacific allies, a program normally reserved for sovereign nations.

**6. He strengthened the U.S.-Japan alliance to counter China.** Biden hosted Prime Minister Fumio Kishida for a state visit and announced "the most significant upgrade of our alliance since it was first established" — including the formation of a joint defense council, a new "Joint Force" operational headquarters led by three-star commander, joint military exercises with Britain, and new trilateral military cooperation among the United States, Japan and the Philippines, with Japanese warships patrolling the waters near the Philippines for the first time. The strengthening of our Pacific alliances will be among his most enduring legacies.

**5. He secured passage of nearly \$32 billion in military aid to Ukraine.** The arms package ensured that Donald Trump will not inherit a military disaster in Ukraine when he takes office. Biden also sent U.S. antipersonnel land mines to Ukraine to stop the advance of Russian troops, belatedly delivered F-16 fighter jets and long-range Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) to Kyiv — and, in his final weeks in office, finally allowed Ukraine to use the missiles to strike Russian territory (from which Russian forces had been targeting Ukrainian civilians, troops and critical infrastructure with impunity). He also successfully pushed the Group of Seven to approve using frozen Russian sovereign assets to support Ukraine.

**4. He defended Israel from the air with U.S. fighter aircraft.** When Iran attacked Israel in April, Biden deployed U.S. fighter pilots over the skies of Jordan and Saudi Arabia to defend Israel, shooting down 80 attack drones and six ballistic

missiles before they reached Israeli airspace. U.S. forces coordinated with Israel to repel another Iranian attack in October. Biden also deployed the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense system to Israel to combat the missile threat from Iran and its terrorist proxies. The U.S. military used THAAD in combat for the first time on Friday to intercept a ballistic missile fired by Houthi rebels in Yemen.

**3. He signed legislation to ban TikTok.** The Chinese-owned social media app has more than 170 million American users, giving the Chinese Communist Party the ability to collect unprecedented reams of information on them, including search and browsing histories, keystroke patterns and biometric identifiers, faceprints and voiceprints, passwords, location data, and message drafts. The bill Biden signed would ban TikTok in the United States if its Chinese parent company does not sell it to a company that isn't Chinese within a year.

**2. He began the mass deportation of illegal immigrants.** Biden unleashed the worst border crisis in American history, while dramatically reducing deportations to just 59,011 in his first year in office. But in Year 4, he finally reversed course — increasing deportations to 271,484, the highest level since 2014. He also implemented new rules that sharply restrict asylum claims, causing illegal border crossings to plunge in 2024 — all without any additional authority or resources from Congress, which shows that the Biden border crisis was a crisis of choice all along.

**1. He finally decided not to run for a second term.** To anyone who watched Biden falling asleep during his meeting with world leaders in Angola, or read the Wall Street Journal's stunning exposé on how the White House functioned with a cognitively diminished president, it was obvious he was not capable of serving four more years in office. Biden took far too long to act (and only did so when his hand was forced by Democrats' panicking over his disastrous debate performance), but he eventually did the right thing and stood down.

In my next column, I will review the 10 worst things Biden did last year.

## Why is health care so expensive in America? Insurance.

BY DAVID GOLDHILL

**C**onsider this: Health insurance is a product so terrible that few Americans voluntarily buy it without receiving a sizable subsidy. "No one would design a system like the one we have. And no one did," UnitedHealth Group CEO Andrew Witty wrote this month. "It's a patchwork built over decades."

Today, insurers are accused of pushing up prices for medical care and then denying legitimate claims. Their leaders are said to be greedy or incompetent. In reality, we have a more fundamental problem: Health insurance can no longer pay for or manage modern health care, and the patchwork that Witty described is not fixable. It makes no sense to try.

Instead, Americans need to begin to create a working health-care marketplace that better aligns the incentives of health-care providers with the rapidly changing needs of patients.

Health insurance was meant to work like other kinds of insurance: When policyholders got sick, they would use the collective financial resources of the healthy to cover their costs. But this model was designed to pay for emergencies such as hospitalizations — not to "share the risk" of erectile dysfunction, weight loss, lifelong management of chronic conditions or the mental health treatment needed by 1 in 5 Americans. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 90 percent of America's health-care expenditures go toward chronic and mental health conditions.

It's as if homeowners' policies expanded from insuring against fires and floods to also covering utility bills and property taxes, or even replacing worn-out furniture.

Yes, some people become extraordinarily ill during their lives. But all of us, even the relatively healthy, now use a lot of health care. It's no longer an unexpected need — an insurable risk. It has turned into one of our largest *expected* needs. Expected needs aren't insurable.

Trying to force the square peg of insurance into the round hole of health-care needs has created a terribly inefficient business. The United States spends five times more per capita on health-care administration — paperwork — than any other developed country. Yet rather than making cost control, this system codifies high prices while making insurers, not patients, the primary customers of health-care providers. No medical provider can generate additional profits from insurers by

cutting prices or controlling costs. Therefore, no provider does.

When insurers are the primary payers, the marketplace is distorted. So much of what Americans hate about the system — limited networks, paperwork, billing mistakes, terrible customer service, opacity — arises from the way clinicians serve insurers' business priorities rather than patients' needs.

Policymakers cement the centrality of this model. Medicare, Medicaid and Veterans Affairs health care all have been dressed up as pretend insurance. Americans individually pour hundreds of thousands of dollars into the system through premiums and deductibles, yet they somehow keep believing that someone else is paying for their care.

The disconnect between actual health care and the insurance model is widening as care grows more complicated, more pervasive, more personal and more effective. As lifestyle drugs, remote monitoring and treatment, genetic medicine, rare-disease cures, and AI-driven care expand the uses and effectiveness of medicine, insurance processes are increasingly unable to keep up.

To replace its obsolete insurance structure, America has two choices.

One is to emulate other nations and make health care a social utility, with government controlling supply and prices to ensure equal access to care. But this model utterly fails to drive the innovation that's essential to improving health outcomes. Had the United States copied Britain's National Health Service when it was established in 1948, Americans might today enjoy the glories of equal access — to roughly 1948-level care.

Instead, America should get the entire industry to compete vigorously for customers — for patients, that is, not insurance companies. Spending power needs to shift from insurers and government subsidies back to individuals, through mechanisms that patients control. Competition among providers for dollars spent directly by prudent consumers would not only bring prices down but also encourage more innovative approaches to packaging care. And this care would be better aligned with patients' diverse needs.

In such a system, insurance and government would play their traditional functions but no longer act as the industry's primary customers. Insurance would spread the financial risk of rare and major episodic medical needs. Governments would subsidize vulnerable populations so they could fully participate in the market-

place for ordinary health care.

Only when patients themselves make choices about how to spend health-care dollars — even if some of those dollars come from government subsidies — can providers' incentives align with patients' needs. Only then will there be real pressure to improve health-care quality and lower costs, and to continue to do so in the face of constant demographic, technological and cultural change.

The U.S. health-care system cannot be changed quickly. But there are immediate opportunities to unleash market forces into large corners of it. Consider that Americans today spend between \$200 billion and \$300 billion a year directly on health care, via deductibles and the cost of uninsured care. This, on its own, would be a sizable consumer industry.

For example, insurers could be banned from requiring patients to spend their annual deductibles only within their closed provider networks. Medicare could remove its rules that effectively bar providers from offering discounts below Medicare rates. Insurers could also be required to be transparent about how they reimburse providers for specific services. And state rules that make insurers accept providers that charge less than their network price could be extended nationally. Government programs that pay hospitals more than competing providers for identical services could be scrapped.

Countless other effective changes could be made once competition for consumer dollars becomes the guiding principle. Insurance could gradually become less comprehensive, and the developing consumer market would better manage costs.

After nearly 60 years of reform failure following the passage of the Medicare and Medicaid Act, we first need to give up on the idea that the insurance-based system can be fixed. As we shift some of the nearly \$5 trillion in annual health-care spending (\$14,570 per American) from insurers back to individuals, we will discover that, in a competitive marketplace, high-tech health care can offer better quality at lower prices. We'll develop the confidence to shift more of our health-care spending away from the pure weirdness of the insurance-reimbursement model and toward better management of our most important consumer industry.

David Goldhill, the CEO of Sesame, a health-care marketplace, is the author of "Catastrophic Care: Why Everything We Think We Know About Health Care Is Wrong."

RUTH MARCUS

## John Roberts vs. JD Vance, Round 1

**J**ohn G. Roberts Jr., in his year-end report on the federal judiciary, didn't call out JD Vance by name. But the chief justice took an unmistakable — and well-deserved — swipe at the vice president-elect over his reckless suggestions that it is sometimes acceptable to defy the rulings of federal courts.

Roberts has multiple concerns when it comes to defending the imperative of an independent judiciary: violence or threats of violence directed against judges; efforts to intimidate them, fueled by the rise of social media; and disinformation, including by foreign actors. But on the eve of the inauguration of Vance and Donald Trump, Roberts's most compelling warning involved the prospect of government officials defying court orders.

Judicial independence, he wrote, "is undermined unless the other branches [of government] are firm in their responsibility to enforce the court's decrees." He cited, of course, the response to the court's 1954 ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*, when governors throughout the South sought to defy court orders to desegregate public schools.

"The courage of federal judges to uphold the law in the face of massive local opposition — and the willingness of the Eisenhower and Kennedy Administrations to stand behind those judges — are strong testaments to the relationship between judicial independence and the rule of law in our Nation's history," Roberts observed.

And in case you missed the pointed reference to the role of both Republican and Democratic administrations in enforcing court orders, Roberts went on, and he's worth quoting in full.

"Every Administration suffers defeats in the court system — sometimes in cases with major ramifications for executive or legislative power or other consequential topics," Roberts wrote. "Nevertheless, for the past several decades, the decisions of the courts, popular or not, have been followed, and the Nation has avoided the standoffs that plagued the 1950s and 1960s. Within the past few years, however, elected officials from across the political spectrum have raised the specter of open disregard for federal court rulings. These dangerous suggestions, however sporadic, must be soundly rejected."

These words cannot be read in a vacuum — nor, I suspect, were they written in one. Because of all the "elected officials from across the political spectrum" who have toyed with defying court orders, the most prominent by far — and the one who ought to know better — is JD Vance, Yale Law School Class of 2013, whose wife, Usha, clerked for Roberts from 2017 to 2018.

And yet defying the courts is something Vance has repeatedly suggested. "If I was giving him [Trump] one piece of advice, fire every single mid-level bureaucrat, every civil servant in the administrative state," Vance said on a 2021 podcast. "Replace them with our people. And when the courts — because you will get taken to court — and when the courts stop you, stand before the country like Andrew Jackson did and say: 'The chief justice has made his ruling. Now let him enforce it.'"

This was no casual, one-off comment.

Vance reiterated his position — although he tried to soft-pedal it — in a February interview with ABC's George Stephanopoulos:

Vance: "The president has to be able to run the government as he thinks he should. That's the way the Constitution works. It has been thwarted too much by the way our bureaucracy has worked over the past 15 years."

Stephanopoulos: "The Constitution also says the president must abide by legitimate Supreme Court rulings, doesn't it?"

Vance: "The Constitution says that the Supreme Court can make rulings, but if the Supreme Court — and, look, I hope that they would not do this, but if the Supreme Court said the president of the United States can't fire a general, that would be an illegitimate ruling, and the president has to have Article II prerogative under the Constitution to actually run the military as he sees fit."

Then, in an interview with Politico Magazine the following month, Vance made clear that he meant defiance of the federal courts, and not just in the narrow case of the president's authority over the military.

"If the elected president says, 'I get to control the staff of my own government,' and the Supreme Court steps in and says, 'You're not allowed to do that' — like, that is the constitutional crisis," Vance said. "It's not whatever Trump or whoever else does in response. When the Supreme Court tells the president he can't control the government anymore, we need to be honest about what's actually going on."

So, here we are. Trump and Vance are about to be sworn in. The prospect of a standoff between the Trump administration and the courts is not theoretical — it is real. Trump's contempt for the courts and the rule of law has long been evident. Now, he will have Vance by his side, seemingly ready to egg him on.

When the Trump administration loses an important case before the Supreme Court — and its first-term record implies that is likely — will Vance counsel defiance and what Roberts called "open disregard"?

That would be, as Roberts warned, a dangerous suggestion. Usha Vance should urge her husband to mind the Constitution and the chief justice. Meanwhile, the rest of us need to brace for what Roberts might have to report a year from now.



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The Washington Post

# METRO

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2025

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PHOTOS BY SHEDRICK PELT FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## White issues apology to D.C.

### GIVES NO REASON AS HE'S SWORD IN

Ward 8 member faces bribery charge, expulsion

BY MEAGAN FLYNN

D.C. Council member Trayon White Sr. (D-Ward 8), under indictment for bribery, issued an apology moments after he was sworn into office for a third term — though without saying why.

White was among six lawmakers sworn into office at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center ceremony Thursday morning. After he raised his right hand and swore to uphold the laws of D.C. and the United States, and after tepid applause from the audience, White addressed the crowd, calling the moment "bittersweet." Council member Janeese Lewis George (D-Ward 4), who last month joined all lawmakers in voting to recommend White's expulsion from the council for ethics violations, administered the oath of office to him.

"This morning, I want to say that I apologize to my city," said White, who has pleaded not guilty to the federal bribery charge, "and I love my city to the core of who I am. I'm not a perfect man, but if you get to know me, you know that I'm a good man."

Leaving the stage after the ceremony ended, White did not respond to reporters who asked him to be specific about what he

SEE APOLOGY ON B2

## A new perspective on joy and hope

Last Christmas left him wounded by gunfire and clinging to life. This year he's excited for a brighter future.

BY CLARENCE WILLIAMS

This time last year, Shawn Wilkerson lay wounded in a George Washington University Hospital bed, the unlikely survivor of a shooting early on Christmas Day in a Southeast Washington apartment building.

Bullets had pierced his liver, intestines, multiple major blood vessels in the abdomen and shattered leg, arm and hand bones. Weeks later, as pneumonia set in, doctors believed Wilkerson was a day from death, he said.

But George Washington University Hospital doctors managed to save his life. And one holiday season later, Wilkerson said his survival has brought his family a new perspective on joy and hope, even as they try to rebuild a sense of stability from the attack that shattered theirs.

"Last year at Christmas I wasn't even standing," Wilkerson said. "I'm way better than I was last year."



FROM TOP: Shawn Wilkerson, left, with his wife, Merisha Beckham, said he can't wait to restart his construction career and work to become a concrete engineer. Wilkerson shows some scars after 17 surgeries.

The road has not been easy. Wilkerson said he and his wife, Merisha Beckham, had hoped to spend the holidays last year celebrating for the first time with their son Keion, who was born in August 2023. Instead, he said he underwent 17 surgeries, and he still faces the possibility of surgery to remove a bullet still lodged near his spine.

Wilkerson, 34, said the gunman fired multiple rounds into his left leg and torso in the apartment building on Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue during what he believed to be a robbery attempt. Now, it is numb, and he sometimes uses a cane, he said. Police have not announced any arrests in the case.

Wilkerson said doctors inserted a rod in his shattered left arm, which aches in chilly air. Beckham said the arm feels colder than the rest of his body when he embraces her.

SEE SHOOTING ON B2

### TODAY'S WEATHER

8 a.m.	Noon	4 p.m.	8 p.m.
34°	41°	42°	36°

High today at approx. 3 p.m.: 44°

Precip: 90% Wind: SSW 7-14 mph

For weather news, go to B6

### THE DISTRICT

Police arrest man they say drove on a sidewalk near the U.S. Capitol. B3

### OBITUARIES

Rep. John Spratt (D), 82, of South Carolina, was a fiscal steward in House. B4

## FBI releases new video in Jan. 6-related bomb case

BY PERRY STEIN

Federal officials on Thursday released footage tied to their ongoing search for the person who placed pipe bombs near the headquarters of the Republican and Democratic national committees the night before the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol.

The newly released security video depicts the person sitting on a bench, removing what law enforcement says is a pipe bomb from their bag, and then placing it outside the Democratic National Committee building near the Capitol.

Officials also disclosed the perpetrator's height as 5-foot-7.

The pipe bomb investigation has long stumped federal and local investigators, and officials are renewing their push for the public to provide potential tips as the unsolved case turns four years old.

Investigators have interviewed about 1,000 people in connection with the probe, vetted 600 tips and examined 39,000 video files, according to David Sundberg, assistant director in charge of the FBI's Washington field office. Authorities are offering up to \$500,000 for information leading to the person's arrest and



Screenshots from video show a device and the person who placed pipe bombs near the Capitol on the eve of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack.

conviction.

"The tips have been very helpful, but they have not allowed us to identify a suspect yet. So we are releasing some subsequent information in order to hopefully jog someone's memory or convince them that they have information that maybe they thought was not particularly important — but could actually be important," Sundberg said in an interview.

"It's been almost four years,"

he said. "Allegiances and relationships change as well."

The pipe bombs were never detonated, but officials warned they were viable devices that could have exploded and resulted in serious injury or death. They said the perpetrator is believed to have placed the pipe bombs between 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Jan. 5.

The pipe bombs were discovered the next day, when support-

ers of then-President Donald Trump stormed the Capitol. The FBI has said the devices were composed of "1x8-inch threaded galvanized pipes, a kitchen timer, and homemade black powder."

The FBI has released numerous videos with different views of the person. Law enforcement has long had the footage and information released Thursday, but officials often withhold some evidence from the public if they believe it could ultimately hinder an investigation or eventual legal proceedings.

For example, people sometimes struggle to discern a stranger's height and, in the earlier stages of the investigation, officials may not have wanted to release that detail in fear that people who may have seen something would not come forward if they thought the height was shorter or taller than the perpetrator's stated height.

Sundberg said numerous factors collided to complicate the investigation, including that the camera coverage in the area of the pipe bombs was "sporadic" and "not all the highest quality." The incident also occurred in January during the pandemic, with the hoodie and mask the

SEE FBI ON B2

## Salt, beet juice, plows at the ready for snow

BY TEO ARMUS AND DANA MUNRO

It's Plowy McPlowface's time to shine.

With two winter storms in the forecast this weekend, McPlowface — one of Arlington County's 60 creatively named snowplows — is standing by to clear roads in this Northern Virginia locality.

Flurries are expected during Friday's afternoon rush hour and again starting Sunday night, according to The Washington Post's Capital Weather Gang, though only the second storm is likely to result in significant snowfall: There's a 30 percent chance of at least 3 to 6 inches.

But officials around the D.C. region said Thursday that they were not taking any chances, instructing municipal workers to lay out brine on roadways and readying (or already deploying) plows for Sunday's bigger storm.

The Arlington fleet — which includes other vehicles such as Mr. Plow, Saline Dion and CTRL-SALT-DEL, thanks to an online naming contest — only heads out once snowfall reaches two inches.

"We haven't had any major winter storm events in the last few years. It just hasn't happened," said Peter Golkin, a spokesman for Arlington County's Department of Environmental Services. He reminded residents that the best thing to do was to stay off the roads during and immediately after the storms.

"Snow is one of those magical experiences of winter," he said. "Just let safety be the number one priority for everyone involved."

In the District, Mayor Muriel E. Bowser's (D) office said Thursday that 21 brine trucks would be pretreating roads using a mixture of salt, beet juice and water starting at 6 p.m. Thursday and lasting until 6 a.m. Friday.

The District would partially deploy its snow team on Friday at noon, sending out 34 "heavy plows" as well as 10 pickup trucks, or "light plows" for smaller streets. Protected bike lanes, which fall to D.C. transportation officials, are usually cleared six to 24 hours after roads.

Charlie Gischlar, a spokesman

SEE SNOW ON B3

# Last Christmas, he was near death. Now, he's full of life.

## SHOOTING FROM B1

"It gets cold, I can feel the difference in that arm," Beckham said. Wilkerson's abdomen also hosts a patchwork of scars from procedures to correct damage the bullets inflicted to his digestive tract.

And the damage has been more than physical.

Wilkerson, once a master carpenter, said he lost the ability to continue his construction career.

Meanwhile, Beckham cycled through five security officer jobs in the past year and was terminated in October, she said. Government officials denied two disability claims since January, Wilkerson said.

The couple said they lost their apartment in Southeast Washington in the months after the shooting because of their lack of income, and stayed with friends and family before renting an apartment in Oxon Hill, Maryland. They left that residence in September after complaining of rodent infestation and unhealthy conditions, Beckham said.

Throughout the fall the family was unhoused and eventually enrolled in a Northeast D.C. government assistance program, the couple said. At a November luncheon to honor George Washington University Hospital trauma patients, Wilkerson gathered containers of leftovers from the event. Good meals have not always been guar-



PHOTOS BY SHEDRICK PELT FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

anteed, he said.

Last month, the couple leased a two-bedroom apartment in Northwest D.C. with the help of the Virginia Williams Family Resource Center, they said. Their new apartment was bare — no tree, ornaments or even furniture. A couch and bed for the baby were on order, courtesy of a \$500 Ama-

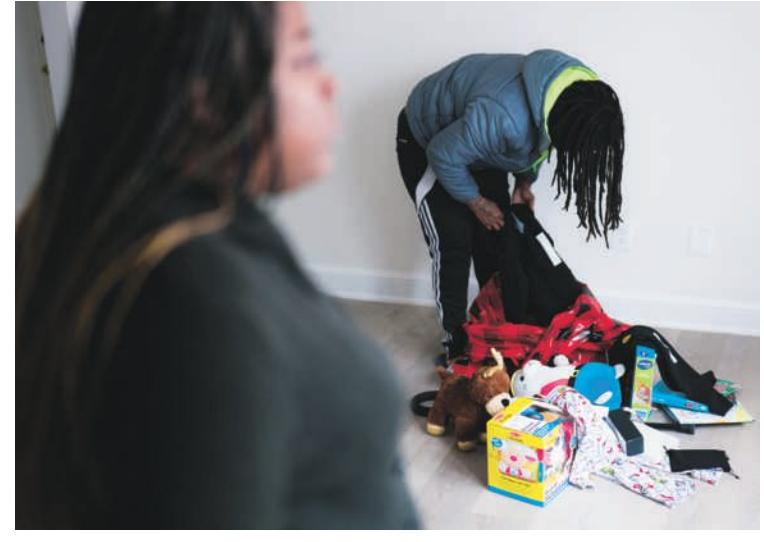
zon gift card provided by the resource center.

But the apartment is chilly and the refrigerator has little inside. The parents said they thought it best that Keion stay with his aunt, at least for now.

If he could work, Wilkerson said there would have been a well-decorated Christmas tree. In-

stead, on the afternoon of Christmas Eve he gathered a small pile of children's books, stuffed animals and a handful of toys the couple scrounged up money to buy. Wilkerson gripped the bulging red and black plastic bag with a hand that tattooed with the phrase: "without struggle there is no progress."

Beckham said she spent what



Shawn Wilkerson, 34, left, survived a shooting on Christmas Day in 2023. The gunman, he said, fired multiple rounds into his left leg and torso during what he believed to be a robbery attempt. Police have not announced any arrests in the case. Above, Wilkerson sifts through Christmas gifts on Dec. 24. "Last year at Christmas I wasn't even standing," he said. "I'm way better than I was last year."

money she could to help make this Christmas more festive than last. This year, she said, her focus isn't on material goods but the presence of those who matter most.

"Holidays should be spent with people who hold a special place in your heart," Beckham said.

Wilkerson said he cannot wait to restart his construction career

and work to become a concrete engineer, perhaps as soon as the spring. The worst seems past. He's so eager for the future he can barely sleep at night, he said.

"I lost everything because of this. But I'm on my two feet and on my 10 toes. My head is up," Wilkerson said. "It's a minor setback for a major come-up."

# White sworn in amid bribery case

## APOLOGY FROM B1

was apologizing for.

It was the closest that White has come to publicly suggesting that he has done anything requiring an apology since he was arrested by the FBI in August. He is accused of accepting more than \$30,000 in cash bribes and agreeing to accept more than \$140,000 in kickbacks in exchange for his promise to try to influence government contracts.

In brief remarks last month, White said an investigation launched by the council found "no clear evidence" that he tried to bribe anyone — although White is not accused of offering bribes — and called on lawmakers to respect the will of Ward 8 voters, who reelected him to a third term in November.

White said Thursday that he was "committed to bettering myself and bettering the community."

"I'm grateful, humble and emotional about being reelected today, because I know that I have a duty and a responsibility to advocate, to make legislation and to make sure equity is on the front line for our residents east of the Anacostia River," he said.

It's unclear how long White may have left on the council. Lawmakers voted 11-0 to recommend his expulsion last month, on the grounds of ethics violations stemming from the bribery case. He will be allowed to present a defense at a Jan. 28 hearing before a formal vote on whether to expel him, which would be an extraordinary step and a first in the half-century history of home rule.

White joined four other re-elected council members — Brooke Pinto (D-Ward 2), Lewis George, Christina Henderson (I-At Large) and Robert C. White Jr. (D-At Large) — and the newest member of the council, Wendell Felder (D-Ward 7), at Thursday's ceremony, kicking off a new council term.

D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) started off the morning with an optimistic address, 10 years to the day since she was first sworn in as mayor.

"A lot has happened over the past 10 years, and I am most proud that today I can stand here and say that the story of Washington, D.C., right now is a good one. In fact, it's a great one," the mayor said. She ticked off a number of recent bright spots, including that the U.S. Census Bureau's recently recorded D.C. population has once again climbed to more than 700,000 residents and that the city ended 2024 with a significant reduction in crime.

More is on the way in 2025, she



PHOTOS BY MARVIN JOSEPH/THE WASHINGTON POST

said: In a few months, the city will open the first new full-service hospital in some two decades, the Cedar Hill Regional Medical Center in Ward 8. And, as a result of recent congressional action, "we finally have control of our own destiny at the RFK campus, with 170 acres of beautiful land on the Anacostia."

Felder, too, said after he was sworn in that he hoped the RFK land, on the banks of the Anacostia River in his ward, could be redeveloped "in a manner that makes Ward 7 the envy of the region." (Felder has not staked a position on what should be built there or whether taxpayer money should go toward a possible football stadium.)

With jubilant supporters in the crowd, Felder pledged to bring Ward 7 "unapologetic"

leadership as he prepared to fill the shoes of Vincent C. Gray, the former mayor and Ward 7 council member who did not seek reelection due to health issues. He said he would work to improve health-care outcomes, create more opportunities for small-business owners, help seniors, advocate to put Interstate 295 underground and invest in commercial corridors to create a thriving Ward 7 downtown.

"Our ward is filled with promise, brimming with potential and ready to rise to every new challenge," he said.

Other lawmakers recommitted to focusing on improving education, making streets safer and cleaner, and addressing the city's affordable housing crisis.

Robert White said government leaders need to be "rowing in the

same direction." "When we embrace this spirit, we stop going in circles and start building affordable housing, vocational education and job training for today's economy, the stepping stones to a safe and stable city."

Lewis George took the oath with her family and new baby by her side, saying that the birth of her son, Pierce, raised the stakes for her as a public servant even higher and that she would think of his future as she pushed for funding for early-childhood educators and D.C. Public Schools teachers, among other things.

"When I look at my son, I see a child full of joy and endless potential, who will grow up as a Black boy in America," she said. "And I think of what it will take to keep him and all of our young people safe, valued and loved."

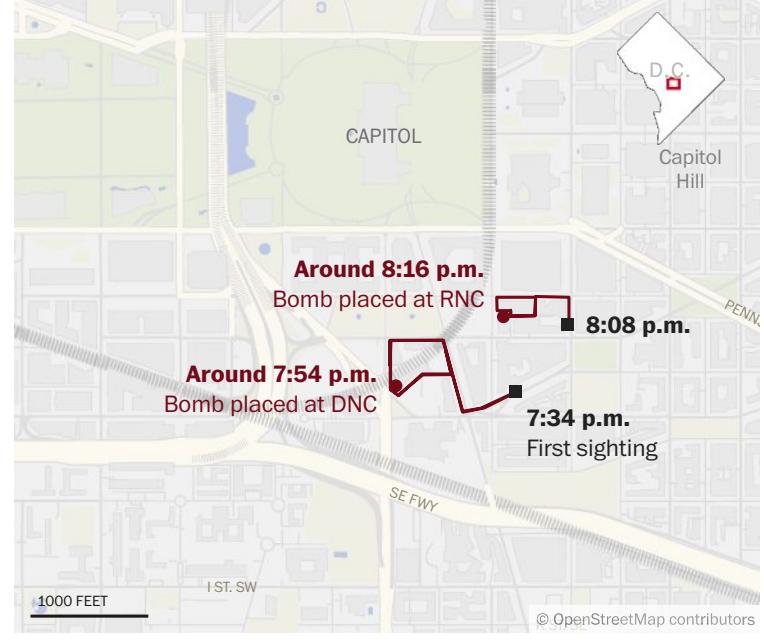
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## The pipe bomber's path on the eve of Jan. 6, 2021

— Path of person on surveillance video



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation

PERRY STEIN AND KEVIN UHRMACHER/THE WASHINGTON POST

# Pipe bombs didn't go off

## FBI FROM B1

person wore making it harder to identify them.

"There were certain challenges in this case that still exist. The suspect was wearing a hood, a mask, gloves, was entirely covered, and that is exacerbated by what was going on in the world and the time of year," Sundberg said. "It was January during the pandemic, so wearing lots of clothes and a mask would not have been abnormal to anyone passing this person on the sidewalk."

"The pipe bombs themselves were not discovered until 15 hours after they were placed, which makes it much harder to find witnesses who could have been in the area," he added.

Some Republicans, including Trump, have pushed conspiracy theories about the pipe bombs, suggesting that the FBI does not want to solve the case because it was a member of an anti-fascist group — and not a Trump supporter — who planted the bombs.

Some have also suggested that the FBI was somehow involved in the planting of the pipe bombs.

The FBI has denied all allegations about the pipe bombs investigation, and there has been no evidence backing these theories.

On Thursday, two Republican-led House subcommittees released a report examining the pipe bombs investigation, determining that security failures contributed to the bombs going undetected for so long. The report said law enforcement officials failed to identify one of the

devices during security sweeps at the DNC.

The report stated that the pipe bombs were discovered after the initial breach of the Capitol, which diverted necessary resources away from the riot.

According to the report, in the early months of the investigation in 2021, law enforcement officials interviewed numerous people of interest but have not yet identified a suspect. Among the people interviewed: someone who searched the term "pipe bomb DC" online before law enforcement's discovery of the bombs but after their placement and five people whose cellular data captured movements that could have matched the perpetrator's.

Investigators say that the perpetrator was wearing a distinct pair of Nike Air Max Speed Turf sneakers, and that one of the people interviewed worked in the area of the pipe bombs and owned the same shoes.

"The Subcommittees' investigation revealed numerous security lapses and a breakdown in law enforcement's command and control of critical incidents," the report reads. "For example, prior to the discovery of both pipe bombs, federal law enforcement, after failing to identify the pipe bomb outside the DNC, allowed Vice President-elect Harris to pass by the explosive device on her way into the DNC and to remain in the DNC for more than an hour before locating the pipe bomb."

Anyone with information is asked to call the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI or to submit a tip online at [tips.fbi.gov](https://tips.fbi.gov).



The Guide to Offers

The Washington Post

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## In Virginia, Sabrina Carpenbrrr will be working late ... 'cause it's a snow plow

### SNOW FROM B1

son for Maryland's State Highway Administration, said the state typically prepares for winter storms by slathering a briny concoction onto the highways that is designed to transform the coming snow and ice into slush.

However, that method will not be effective for the snowfall expected Friday, he said, as it is anticipated to be preceded by rain that would wash any pretreatments down the drain. That means the state will need to begin managing the snow with salt and other mixtures as it's coming down to prevent roads from getting slick, he said.

"We will be out there before

the first flakes fall," Gischlar said, adding that workers will keep traversing the highways sprinkling salt and more "until everything is dried off."

For the second and much more voluminous snowfall predicted to start Sunday night, the state's highways will probably receive the usual advance treatment and crews will follow up with salting and plowing as needed, he said.

Prince George's County is taking a different tack for Friday's weather. Its local roads are getting the brine covering, said Angela J. Rouson, of the county's Department of Public Works and Transportation. Afterward, the county will employ its "snow-

flake operation" — salting icy spots, hilly areas and bridges.

As of Thursday afternoon, Montgomery County didn't have any plans for the forecasted Friday flurry. But both counties are monitoring the weather over the coming days before they start setting strategies in motion for the late weekend dump. "We're kind of in a 'watch and wait' right now," Montgomery County spokesperson Mary Anderson said.

The Virginia Department of Transportation, which is tasked with plowing most roads in Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties as well as state and federal highways in the commonwealth, said in a post on X

that "VDOT crews are ready."

"Keep your eyes on the forecast, check your emergency kit and remember to plan travel around the storm, not during the storm," the post said.

One of the region's most recent snowstorms, in January 2022, stranded hundreds of cars and trucks on Interstate 95 amid ice and snow — thanks to up to 12 inches of snow, jackknifed tractor-trailers, collisions and what VDOT officials said was more snowfall than they had anticipated.

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) urged "all Virginians to monitor weather forecasts, prepare for potential impacts, and heed warnings," in a post on X.

Arlington, unlike some of its more suburban neighbors, takes on the task of plowing much of the county. A winter weather alert has set in motion "pretreatment" phases that handle more than 1,000 miles of roads as well as 350 bus stops or bus shelters, 35 miles of sidewalks, and more than seven miles of protected bike lanes.

Golkin, the county spokesman, said local officials were sending salt trucks out across the county Thursday to put down brine ahead of a "wintry mix" forecast starting Friday afternoon. The brine is designed to hold even if the mix begins with a bit of rain, though temperatures are expected to dip below freez-

ing after dusk.

Arlington officials were also watching forecasts for early next week, he said.

Once the snow reaches two inches, crews begin plowing and the county activates an online storm response map, McPlowface and others named in the county's "Name that Plow!" contest.

This year's fleet also includes topically inspired trucks: There is local hockey star Alex Snowvechkin, pop music chart-toppers Sabrina Carpenbrrr and Taylor Drift, and — fresh off its namesake's appearance in the box-office hit "Wicked" — the Blizzard of Oz. (No word on whether that truck is green.)

### CAPITAL WEATHER GANG

## Odds grow for a snowstorm in the area, but don't make a huge bet in Vegas

BY JASON SAMENOW

Confidence is increasing that the D.C. area will experience its first widespread, accumulating snowfall of the season Sunday night into Monday.

As the storm is still more than three days away, questions remain regarding exactly how much snow will fall and whether it may mix with or change to freezing rain and sleet. However, at least a few inches are likely, and it's not out of the question that parts of the region will see more than half a foot.

Freezing temperatures will allow snow to stick to roads, leading to travel disruptions as soon as Sunday evening and the possibility of school closings on Monday.

Before that, a quick burst of snow is possible during the afternoon and evening rush hour on Friday. The quick-hitting snow will form along a front ushering in the cold air that will set the stage for the storm Sunday night into Monday.

### The possible Friday snow burst

Any snow on Friday will be short-lived, passing from west to east between about 2 and 6 p.m. It may start as rain, especially near and east of Interstate 95, where temperatures will be close to 40 degrees, and may last for only 30 to 60 minutes in any single location.

We mention it because it may fall heavily for a time, coinciding with the commute home and reducing visibility. In most places, the snow will melt rather than stick. But we can't rule out a slushy coating, especially in colder areas north and west of the Beltway, where temperatures could drop to near freezing as the snow subsides.

Cold air will then spill into the area over the weekend, chilling the ground ahead of the storm's arrival Sunday night.

### Details on the Sunday night/Monday storm

All of the reliable forecast models are projecting accumulating snowfall in the D.C. area from this storm, which will also spread substantial snow through the Midwest and Ohio Valley. But the devil is in the details.

"With the storm still over the Pacific Ocean, there still is uncertainty about its exact track, which



JAHI CHIKwendiu/The Washington Post

will help determine where the heaviest snow falls; whether snow changes to a wintry mix; and whether snow even changes to rain south of the District," said Wes Junker, Capital Weather Gang's winter weather expert.

We're confident that precipitation will begin as snow throughout the region and that temperatures, falling into the upper 20s not long after the snow begins, will allow for at least light accumulation Sunday night. But the big forecast questions are how heavy the snow will become and whether it flips to an icy mix of sleet and freezing rain into Monday morning, cutting back on snow totals.

**Scenario 1: Heavy snow. Accumulation over 6 inches. Some wintry mix south of the District. (35 percent chance)**

models and our interpretation of them:

**Scenario 2: Heavy snow. Some wintry mix from the Beltway southward. Accumulation of 3 to 6 inches. (35 percent chance)**

In this scenario, at least several inches of snow could fall throughout the region. However, enough mild air works in aloft to change snow to sleet and freezing rain from around the District southward, reducing snow totals somewhat. Areas north of the Beltway and especially toward northern Maryland could see over 6 inches in this scenario.

**Scenario 3: A wintry mix following 1 to 4 inches of snow accumulation. (20 percent chance)**

In this scenario, the snow

receiving somewhat less snow.

**Scenario 4: Light snow with 1 to 4 inches of accumulation. (10 percent chance)**

In this scenario, the heaviest precipitation ends up south of the District, reducing snowfall intensity. Southern suburbs

In Wednesday's article on this storm, we mentioned a scenario for little or no snow. We're taking that one off the table, as it doesn't seem like this storm is going to miss.

### Storm scenarios

Here are the four most probable scenarios, based on the latest

forecast from the D.C. area is

**Nearly a year ago, snow drew people to a park in Reston. The first snowfall of 2025 could occur Sunday, and last into Monday, with Interstate 95 being a dividing line for the precipitation's frozen impacts.**

Right now, several models place the D.C. area in the sweet spot for heavy snowfall from this storm, but there is reason to be cautious about predicting very high amounts. For one, the storm is coming from the southwest and will not draw large amounts of moisture from the Atlantic Ocean, which is typically required for big snowstorms here.

Also, some of the storm's moisture may be stripped by the mountains as it progresses eastward.

In addition, there is a very real possibility that the snow will mix with and change to sleet and freezing rain, and even plain rain toward Southern Maryland. This would eat into the storm's snow potential.

But, if you like snow, the good news is that heaviest precipitation may fall before any changeover to a wintry mix. There are also some indications that the jet stream pattern and localized fronts may help intensify snow over our region, even if there's not much Atlantic moisture involved.

Dan Stillman, Jeff Halverson and Ian Livingston contributed to this report.

### THE DISTRICT

## Police arrest man near U.S. Capitol

BY PETER HERMANN

Police arrested a man Thursday morning who they say drove a vehicle along a sidewalk on the Capitol grounds, sparking concern a day after the driver of a pickup truck killed 15 people in New Orleans in a suspected terrorist attack and an explosion from a truck in Las Vegas.

A Capitol Police spokesman said authorities charged the man in the D.C. incident with reckless driving and have no reason to

believe he posed a threat. The spokesman said the man was driving slowly. His identity was not immediately made public.

Nevertheless, the incident shortly before 10 a.m. near Constitution Avenue and Third Street

drawed a quick and heavy police response. Authorities closed streets and called for the bomb squad. A short time later, Capitol Police said on X that the vehicle had been declared safe and that roads were expected to reopen.

Police said officers spotted the vehicle heading south on a sidewalk along Third Street and then onto grass toward the Peace Monument near the Capitol Reflecting Pool. Police said they have no reports that any pedestrians were struck.

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## MARYLAND

## Multi-county power line entity applies to state for approval on service bill

THOMAS GOODWIN SMITH

The Public Service Enterprise Group, the company contracted to construct a 70-mile power line through Carroll, Frederick and Baltimore counties, applied Tuesday for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the Maryland Public Service Commission. The power line project must be approved by the commission before construction may begin.

PJM, the organization responsible for operating and planning Maryland's electric grid, has contracted with PSEG to build the estimated \$424 million power line, projected to be operational by 2027. The Maryland Public Service Commission is composed of five members appointed to five-year terms by the governor. The fee to file for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is \$10,000.

"The application highlights the need for additional energy infrastructure to avoid severe and widespread reliability issues as determined by PJM," explains the reliability and economic benefits the MPRP will bring to the residents of Maryland and explains why the MPRP was selected as a cost-effective solution to address these needs," a news release from PSEG states.

The commission will hold public hearings in each county that would be affected by the proposed project, but none are scheduled yet, according to the news release.

According to Maryland law, the commission will consider recommendations from officials in the three counties, the effect of climate change on the power line, and a number of other factors, including electric system reliability, economics, aesthetics, historic sites, aviation safety, and pollution. Because the proposed project is an overhead transmission line, the committee will also consider the regional demand for electricity, and whether alternative routes were considered.

The current proposed path was chosen in October from among 10 possibilities, because it would impact fewer homes and buildings, crosses fewer conservation easements, and because it is shorter and with fewer turns, PSEG officials said.

"This project is needed to pre-

serve grid reliability for Maryland consumers as electricity demand increases and generation resources are retiring both in the state and in the broader PJM region," PJM Vice President Paul McGlynn said in PSEG's news release. "Transmission overloads this severe can lead to widespread and extreme conditions such as system collapse and blackouts if not addressed. The MPRP was selected because it solves the reliability need with the least amount of infrastructure development required, has cost containment in place, and is slated to have a much stronger system performance than any other alternative."

The project has been controversial since it was announced. Carroll County lawmakers voiced opposition to the project saying it threatens the environment; would increase local energy costs; would result in a loss of farmland and revenue for farmers; would be disruptive; and would have other consequences.

PSEG appreciates feedback and engagement from the community received in the first phase of obtaining a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, according to Jason Kalwa, who manages the energy project for PSEG. "This filing illustrates a project that is community-informed, reliable and mitigates impact to individuals, communities, and wildlife as much as possible," Kalwa said in PSEG's news release.

Members of Stop MPRP, one of several community advocacy groups to quickly recruit hundreds of members, plan to emphasize every argument against the proposed project, Director Joanne Frederick has said.

The commission will typically render a decision in nine months to a year for cases like the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project, according to Tori Leonard, a spokesperson for the commission.

"Depending on the complexity of the case, it could be longer," Leonard said in an email this month.

The public may submit comments to the commission about the project, which has been assigned case number 9773. To submit a comment online, visit: <https://www.psc.state.md.us/make-a-public-comment/>.

— Baltimore Sun

## The Washington Post SUNDAY PREVIEW

### ARTS & STYLE

**Trouble on 'Sesame Street'?**: Entering its 55th season, the venerable program faces significant creative and business hurdles as it searches for a new streaming home and ways to hold on to its audience in a fractured media landscape.

### BUSINESS

**Flying taxis**: Electric air taxis are taking flight as investors pour money into the high-risk, high-reward proposition that quieter, greener and battery-powered aircraft can revolutionize travel.

### TRAVEL

**Glamping with cats**: Part Airbnb, part cat sanctuary, Purradise Springs in northern Florida offers animal lovers a unique experience.

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\*Some stories may not run due to breaking news



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## OBITUARIES



RICH LIPSKI/THE WASHINGTON POST

JOHN SPRATT, 82

### Longtime Democratic congressman from S.C. guarded U.S. pocketbook

BY EMILY LANGER

John M. Spratt Jr., a Democrat who served for 28 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he chaired the Budget Committee and was known on both sides of the aisle as a conscientious steward of the nation's pocketbook, died Dec. 14 in his hometown York, South Carolina. He was 82.

The cause was complications from Parkinson's disease, said his daughter Catherine Spratt. Mr. Spratt was defeated in the 2010 midterms by Mick Mulvaney, a Republican who had the backing of the tea party and later served under President Donald Trump as director of the Office of Management and Budget and acting White House chief of staff.

Mr. Spratt, an Ivy League and Oxford graduate whose father was a prominent lawyer and banker in York, combined the authenticity of a local son with the erudition of a pedigree professor. The first attribute aided him with constituent services in his district, which lay on the border with North Carolina and spanned from Rock Hill, in the Charlotte metropolitan area, to the lowland tobacco country. The second quality — his braininess — made him a respected voice in Washington on matters from the military to health care.

He was best known for his work on the Budget Committee, where he earned a reputation as "Mr. Federal Budget," said Cole Blesee Graham Jr., a retired professor of political science at the University of South Carolina.

He added that Mr. Spratt was widely considered a "responsible lawmaker" who was interested in the "general good."

As the committee's ranking Democrat, Mr. Spratt was credited with helping forge the agreement with House Republicans, then led by Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia, that produced the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. President Bill Clinton, who signed the bill, hailed the measure as "the first balanced-budget act in a generation."

The agreement required "some stiff, tough bargaining," Mr. Spratt told the Rock Hill

Herald years later. It showcased his ability to broker compromise not only between Republicans and Democrats, but also between conservative and liberal Democrats.

In a statement provided by Mr. Spratt's daughter, Clinton recalled the congressman as "masterful in his knowledge of policy" and "willing to work with anyone to pass legislation that would make a difference in people's lives."

Although they came from opposite coasts and wildly different districts, Mr. Spratt joined the inner circle of Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-California) as she ascended the party ranks to become minority leader in 2003 and then House speaker after Democrats won control of the chamber in 2006. According to the National Journal, Mr. Spratt was dubbed Pelosi's "maestro of the budget" and became Budget Committee chairman.

He was forcefully critical of President George W. Bush's fiscal leadership, charging that by the end of his presidency, he had converted "the largest surpluses in history" into "the largest deficits in history."

Mr. Spratt tied the cost of the Iraq War to that legacy. In 2002, as Bush prepared to invade Iraq, Mr. Spratt voted with the majority of the House to authorize the use of force. But he did so only after unsuccessfully attempting to gather support for a more limited authorization.

By 2010, Mr. Spratt's district had grown increasingly conservative, and his role in passing the Affordable Care Act of 2010 — a signature piece of President Barack Obama's domestic agenda — made him a target for Republican pickups in the midterms.

His loss that year to Mulvaney, then a South Carolina state senator, helped Republicans retake control of the House. The only remaining Democrat in the South Carolina congressional delegation today is James E. Clyburn, the former majority whip and assistant Democratic leader, who wrote on X after Mr. Spratt's death that he has been "missing him for a long time."

John McKee Spratt Jr., one of two children, was born Nov. 1, 1942, in Charlotte — a short distance across the border between North and South Carolina — and grew up in York. His father was chairman of a local bank in addition to running his legal practice, and his mother was a homemaker.

Mr. Spratt was student body president at his high school and at Davidson College in North Carolina. After his graduation in 1964, he received a Marshall Scholarship to attend the University of Oxford in England, studying philosophy, politics and economics. He graduated from Yale Law School in 1969.

During Army service, he gained knowledge of military policy and procurement on a Pentagon assignment that would later inform his tenure on the Armed Services Committee. Mr. Spratt returned to South Carolina to work with his father, serving as a lawyer for the county and the local school district and assuming leadership of the family bank.

His experience with his legal clients and bank depositors helped shape his work in Congress, where he championed the interests of South Carolina's textile companies. Mr. Spratt also ran a small insurance company and farm.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, the former Jane Stacy; three daughters, Susan Spratt, Sarah Spratt and Catherine Spratt; a sister; and five grandchildren.

Mr. Spratt won his House seat in a mad dash of a campaign in 1982 after the incumbent, Democrat Kenneth Holland, abruptly decided to retire. He encountered little difficulty winning reelection until 1994, the year Gingrich led Republicans to retake the House, and survived several subsequent challenges before his loss in 2010.

By that point, Mr. Spratt had begun to suffer the effects of Parkinson's disease, but even then, he tried to hold on to his place in Congress and the style of politics he represented.

"There's a lot of fight left in this old dog," he said on the trail.



2004 PHOTO BY MELINA MARA/THE WASHINGTON POST

Budget Committee Chairman John Spratt (D-South Carolina) is flanked by Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minnesota) and a staffer. Mr. Spratt left office after 28 years after losing a reelection bid in 2010.

### DEATH NOTICE

#### BLICKSTEIN

**SYLVIA BLICKSTEIN (Age 84)**  
Sylvia Blickstein, of Columbia, Maryland, passed away peacefully on December 20, 2024. Sylvia was born on December 2, 1940, in Cleveland, Ohio to Joseph Edelson. She is pre-deceased by her beloved husband, Irving Blickstein. Sylvia graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in arts education in 1962. While there, she met Irving, and it was love at first sight. The two married in June 1962, and had two daughters. Upon the birth of their first daughter, Sylvia resigned her position teaching art in the Alexandria public school system and became a full-time mother. She returned to the workforce in the mid-1980s, working as a legal assistant with the firm Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett and Dunner, where she rose to the position of Head of Legal Assistant Services. When she retired from there, she became a docent at the Baltimore Museum of Art. Sylvia is survived by her daughters Jill and Valerie and her grandchildren Sam and Sarah, her son-in-law Rob and her niece Susan. Funeral services will be held Friday, January 3 at 1 p.m. at Judean Gardens in Olney, Maryland. Contributions may be made to the Baltimore Museum of Art.

### BLUE

**DR. EUGENE R. BLUE JR. (Age 74)**  
Eugene R. Blue, Jr., passed away on December 17, 2024. A cherished husband of Joslyn Williams-Blue; loving stepfather of Haley and Jonathan Williams; and adored great-granduncle of David Jude and Patricia Ebbens. A respected professor, Dr. Blue taught at Catholic University, Bowie State University, George Mason University and Howard University, School of Business where he received the 2005 Faculty of the Year award. He was known for his personable character, his intellectual wit and jovial humor.

On Friday, January 10, 2025, family and friends will be gathering from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., at Stewart Funeral Home, 4001 Benning Road NE, Washington, DC. At 2 p.m., a memorial service will be held in his honor. [www.stewartfuneralhome.com](http://www.stewartfuneralhome.com)

### HORSTKAMP

**JOHN ANTHONY HORSTKAMP JR.**  
On Sunday, December 22, 2024, John Anthony Horstkamp Jr. of Stafford, Virginia, passed away at the age of 66. John had been fighting a cruel disease called Progressive Supranuclear Palsy for the past three years.

John was born to John and Marge Horstkamp in Washington, DC and grew up in Lanham, Maryland. He traveled the US in his young years, living in Denver, CO Phoenix, AZ, Reston, VA and finally settling in Stafford. John worked as computer hardware/software engineer. He started his career at NASA in Greenbelt, MD and has worked for several companies over his long career. John had a passion for applied physics and mathematics. He nearly completed his degree in electrical engineering at George Mason University, before he decided to retire.

John played guitar all his life. He was a gifted musician. He played in bands locally and enjoyed playing jazz guitar. He was a taekwondo athlete and earned a Brown belt while living in Reston, VA.

John was preceded in death by his mother Marge. He is survived by his father John and three sisters, Kathy, Cindy and Valerie, his nephew, Robert, and nieces Melanie, Lindsay, and Cassidy and grandniece Kinsey and grandnephews Dominic and CJ.

The family will receive friends from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, January 5, 2025 at Miller Funeral Home, 3200 Golansky Blvd., Woodbridge, VA 22192, with a prayer service at 2 p.m.

### PATTERSON



**BARBARA JEAN JEFFERS PATTERSON**  
On December 19, 2024 peacefully. Born in Greensboro, NC, a retired nurse and co-owner of a Jackson Hewitt Tax Service DC franchise. Widow of Charles Patterson, mother of Michael Patterson (deceased). Survivors include a sister, Barbara Jeffers-Wright (Greensboro); three grandchildren; great grands; nieces, nephews, cousins, and sister-in-law Ilana S. Chester (Steubenville, OH). Arrangements: January 7, Seaton Memorial AME Church, 5507 Lincoln Ave., Lanham, MD; Visitation 10 a.m.; Service 11 a.m.

[pridgenfuneralservice.com](http://pridgenfuneralservice.com)

### RIDLEY



**WINSTON C. RIDLEY JR. PASTOR, DMH.**  
On Tuesday, December 17, 2024, the beloved husband of First Lady Bonita LuRose Lee Ridley. Also surviving are his sister Robin in Caroline Ridley, his sister-in-law Kim Lee Robinson, aunts, uncles a host of loving relatives and friends. On Saturday, January 4, 2025, a memorial service will be held at Mt. Pleasant Plaza, 2701 13th Street NW, Washington, DC 20004. Visitation will be held from 9 a.m. until time of service at 11 a.m. Interment will be held Monday, January 6, 2025, at Restland Memorial Cemetery, Monroeville, PA. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Daughters of Zion-GFBC Women's Ministry, 5507 Lincoln Ave., Washington, DC 20009. [https://www.mcguire-services.com/](http://www.mcguire-services.com/)

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**The Washington Post**



# THE WEATHER

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Frozen precipitation is possible

 A Midwestern disturbance will race toward the area with clouds quickly increasing in the morning. There should be enough moisture to produce some snow showers in the afternoon, which could start as rain in milder areas near and east of Interstate 90. Highs in the mid-30s to lower 40s limit daytime snow accumulation, but a quick coating can't be ruled out in colder areas north and west of the Beltway. In the evening, snow showers should taper off in the evening. Lows will fall to the low to mid-20s.

## Today

Snow showers



44° 27°

FEELS\*: 38°

CHANCE PRECIP: 90%

WIND: SSW 7-14 mph

HUMIDITY: Moderate

## Saturday

Partly sunny, windy



35° 24°

FEELS: 21°

P: 0%

W: NW 12-25 mph

H: Low

## Sunday

Mostly cloudy, breezy



37° 27°

FEELS: 26°

P: 25%

W: NNE 7-14 mph

H: Low

## Monday

Cold, snow



32° 23°

FEELS: 24°

P: 95%

W: NW 10-20 mph

H: High

## Tuesday

Partly sunny, cold



34° 21°

FEELS: 23°

P: 0%

W: NW 10-20 mph

H: Moderate

## Wednesday

Sunny, cold



32° 16°

FEELS: 22°

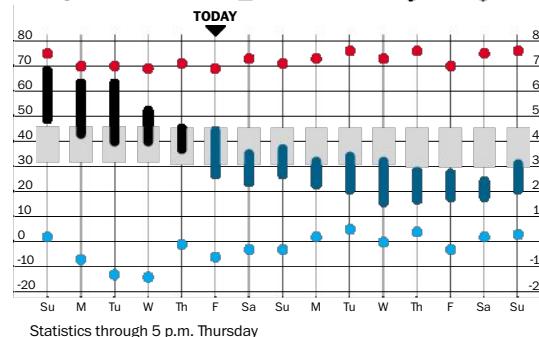
P: 0%

W: NW 8-16 mph

H: Moderate

## OFFICIAL RECORD

## Temperatures

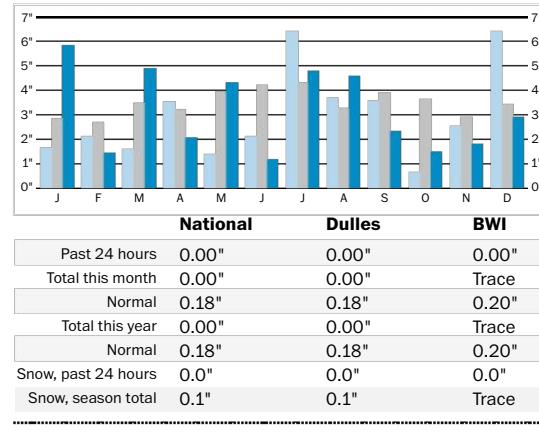


Statistics through 5 p.m. Thursday

National	Dulles	BWI
High: 45° 2:00 p.m.	42° 3:37 p.m.	41° 1:00 p.m.
Low: 37° 7:31 a.m.	35° 8:01 a.m.	34° 7:00 a.m.
Normal: 45°/31°	43°/26°	44°/27°
Record high: 71° 1876	67° 2000	71° 1876
Record low: -1° 1899	-7° 1968	0° 1968

Difference from 30-yr. avg. (National): this month: +5.0° yr. to date: +5.0°

## Precipitation



## Moon Phases



## Solar system

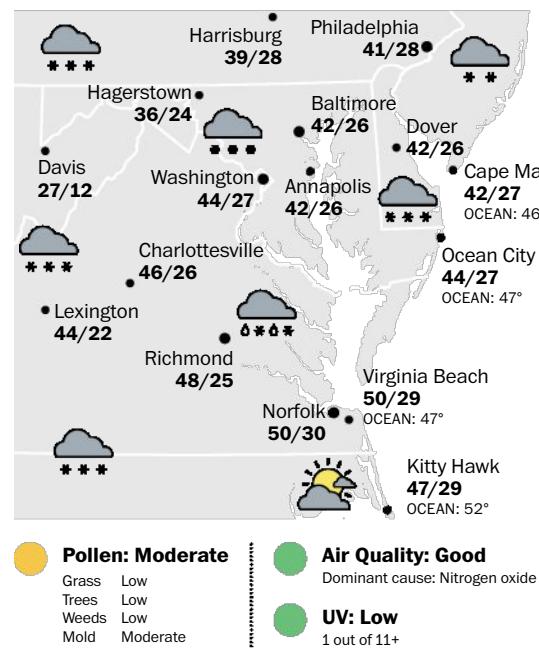
Rise	Set
Sun 7:27 a.m.	4:59 p.m.
Moon 10:13 a.m.	9:10 a.m.
Venus 10:04 a.m.	8:49 p.m.
Mars 6:06 p.m.	9:00 a.m.
Jupiter 2:44 a.m.	5:21 a.m.
Saturn 10:42 a.m.	9:57 p.m.

Key: ☀ sunny, ☁ partly cloudy, ☁cloudy, ☨rain, ☨rain, ☨thunderstorms, ☨snow, ☨flurries, ☨hail

Sources: AccuWeather.com; US Army Centralized Allergen Extract Lab (pollen data); airnow.gov (air quality); USGS (volcanoes); USGS (earthquakes)

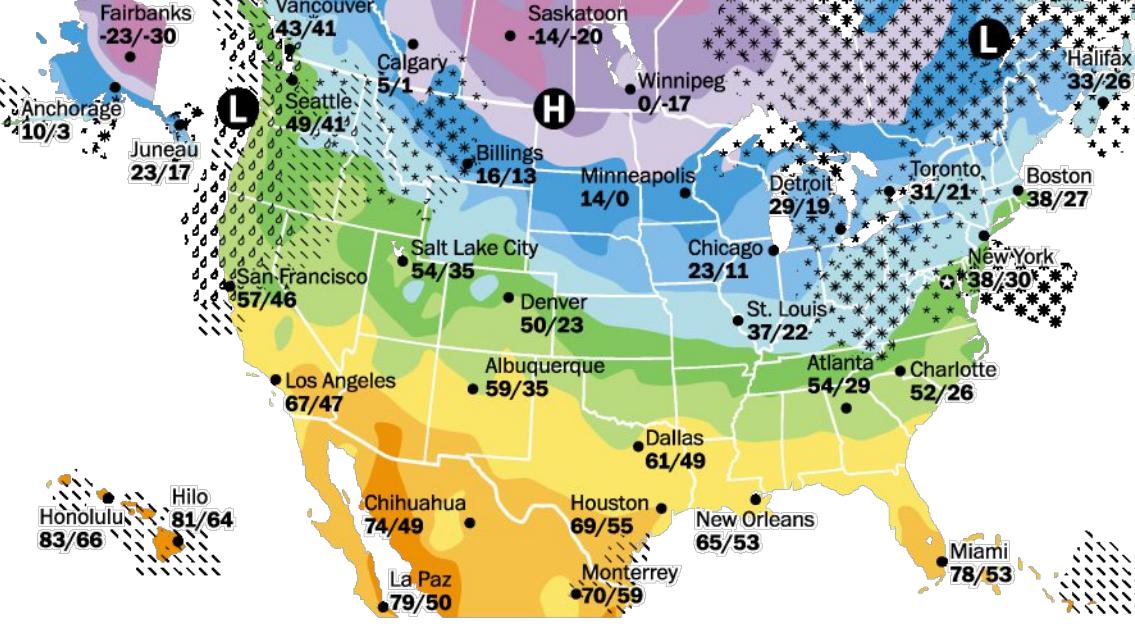
\* AccuWeather's "RealFeel Temperature" combines over a dozen factors for an accurate measure of how the conditions really "feel."

## REGION



## NATION

Weather map features for noon today.



**Blue Ridge:** Today, partly sunny. Snow at times this afternoon, accumulating 1-3 inches in northern parts; periods of snow, accumulating 1-3 inches in southern parts. A snow shower in central parts this afternoon. High 26 to 30. Winds west 12-25 mph.

**Atlantic beaches:** Today, showers of rain, snow this afternoon; mostly cloudy in the south. High 43 to 50. Winds west-southwest 8-16 mph. Tonight, a little snow, accumulating up to an inch, except dry in the south. Low 26 to 30. Winds west-northwest 10-20 mph.

**Waterways:** Upper Potomac River: Today, mostly cloudy, afternoon snow showers. Wind southwest 6-12 knots. Waves 2 feet or less. Lower Potomac and Chesapeake Bay: Today, partly sunny, afternoon snow showers. Wind southwest 8-16 knots. Waves 1-2 feet on the Lower Potomac; 1-3 feet on the Chesapeake Bay. • **River Stages:** The stage at Little Falls will be around 3.30 feet today, with no change of 3.30 Saturday. Flood stage at Little Falls is 10 feet.

**Today's tides** (High tides in **Bold**)

Washington	5:04 a.m.	10:13 a.m.	5:15 p.m.	10:33 p.m.
Annapolis	1:45 a.m.	7:04 a.m.	1:19 p.m.	<b>8:00 p.m.</b>
Ocean City	3:21 a.m.	9:47 a.m.	4:13 p.m.	<b>10:08 p.m.</b>
Norfolk	5:18 a.m.	11:41 a.m.	6:01 p.m.	<b>none</b>
Point Lookout	3:12 a.m.	9:14 a.m.	3:48 p.m.	10:52 p.m.

NATIONAL	Today	Tomorrow	Des Moines	21/10/pc	19/12/pc	52/38/s	52/23/c
Albany, NY	34/21/s	26/23/s	El Paso	71/42/s	74/44/pc	59/35/s	63/42/s
Albuquerque	59/35/s	65/31/pc	Fairbanks, AK	10/23-30/s	-21/-24/s	65/31/pc	63/42/pc
Anchorage	10/3/s	12/9/pc	Fargo, ND	5/-7/c	4/-11/c	79/49/s	73/46/s
Atlanta	54/29/s	47/32/s	Hartford, CT	39/25/s	33/23/pc	54/35/s	51/40/s
Austin	65/55/pc	73/63/pc	Honolulu	83/66/s	82/69/s	57/46/s	59/35/s
Baltimore	42/26/s	33/22/pc	Houston	69/55/pc	69/64/c	67/47/s	74/49/s
Billings	52/35/s	67/48/pc	Indianapolis	27/15/s	24/19/s	59/35/s	61/49/s
Birmingham	54/29/s	49/28/s	Jackson, MS	61/25/s	55/49/c	52/33/s	59/35/s
Bismarck, ND	7/6/c	6/5/c	Jacksonville, FL	64/36/s	59/34/s	36/21/s	47/32/s
Bolte	52/35/s	45/36/c	Kansas City, MO	33/21/s	27/18/s	52/35/s	56/39/s
Boston	38/27/s	34/25/s	Las Vegas	62/47/pc	61/42/pc	62/47/s	65/53/s
Buffalo	30/21/s	36/21/s	Little Rock	53/31/pc	48/43/pc	53/31/pc	59/42/pc
Burlington, VT	31/16/s	19/12/s	Los Angeles	67/47/pc	63/50/pc	63/50/s	70/52/s
Charleston, SC	59/32/s	52/33/s	Louisville	38/21/s	32/24/pc	54/35/s	60/45/s
Charleston, WV	36/20/s	29/17/s	Memphis	49/30/s	46/42/pc	54/35/s	64/45/s
Charlotte	52/26/s	45/28/s	Miami	78/53/pc	70/56/s	57/46/s	65/45/pc
Cheyenne, WY	49/22/pc	36/19/c	Milwaukee	26/12/s	25/13/s	84/75/s	84/75/pc
Chicago	23/11/s	22/14/s	Minneapolis	14/0/s	13/1/c	84/75/s	84/75/pc
Cincinnati	34/16/s	28/21/s	Nashville	43/25/s	40/31/c	36/23/s	43/31/c
Cleveland	30/21/s	26/19/s	New Orleans	65/53/pc	63/59/r	32/23/s	41/31/s
Dallas	61/49/pc	63/52/c	New York City	38/30/s	34/27/pc	70/52/s	78/53/s
Denver	50/23/s	38/15/c	Norfolk	50/30/c	38/28/s	43/28/s	58/58/s

WORLD	Today	Tomorrow	Oklahoma City	52/38/s	52/23/c	70/48/pc	71/50/pc
Addis Ababa	73/47/pc	74/46/pc	Orlando				



## CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK

## Double-tap divertimento

On TikTok, classical music is thriving, even as it's chopped to bits

BY MICHAEL ANDOR BRODEUR

There are plenty of reasons to lament the impending potential ban of TikTok — 170 million Americans use the hyper-popular video-streaming app daily to connect with one another, run their small businesses and freak out in real time about #drones and #fog. But if President-elect Donald Trump fails to “save the platform” — i.e. sway the Supreme Court away from the ban by way of a freshly filed brief — millions of American users will lose not only their daily diet of makeup tutorials, dance trends and tense men with giant microphones but also one of TikTok’s most unlikely delights: if not a constant stream, then certainly a reliable trickle of classical music.

SEE NOTEBOOK ON C3

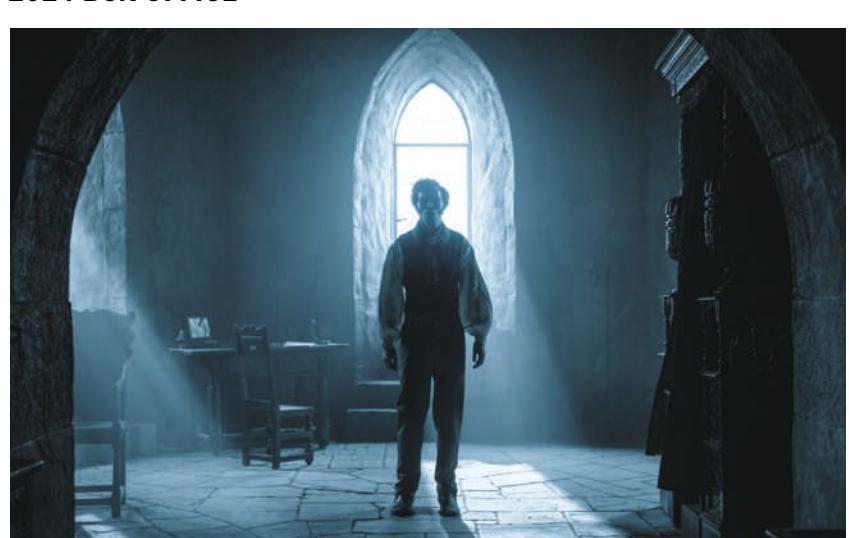
## MOVIE IN WEEKEND



## Nickel Boys ★★★★

Inventive filmmaker adapts a Pulitzer-winning novel into a great American movie. **17**

## 2024 BOX OFFICE



## Back to life

With movies such as “Nosferatu,” Hollywood ended 2024 a little less pale. **C3**

## The evolution of cartoonists' imagery of the 39th president

BY MICHAEL CAVNA

It was the summer of 2015 when former president Jimmy Carter revealed a dire diagnosis: melanoma had spread to his liver and brain. As he made peace with the news, receiving treatment at Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University in Atlanta, a nearby artist responded from the heart.

Mike Luckovich, the Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, immediately knew he wanted to create art for the next day as an expression of support. Luckovich recalls telling his editor: “We’ve got to do something on Carter because he’s been so important to Georgia, to Atlanta, and he’s such an amazing person.” But evening deadline was looming. The editor’s response: *Draw quickly.*

Luckovich drew a married couple hammering a sign onto their front lawn. In the style of a campaign poster, it read: “Jimmy Carter for Cancer Survivor.” And soon after the artwork was published, a person from Carter’s hometown of Plains, Georgia, asked permission to make actual campaign signs like the one pictured. Sure thing, the artist said.

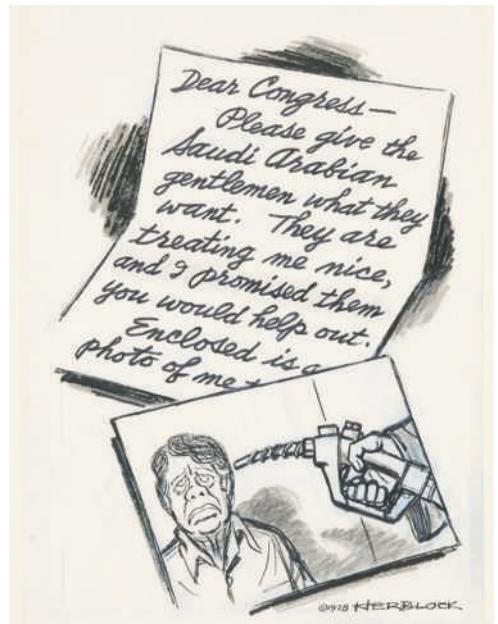
Several days later, as Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, were driven home, they came upon hundreds of these signs lining the street. As Luckovich recounts, Carter — despite everything he’d just been through — got out of his vehicle, took a photo and sent it to Luckovich with words of appreciation.

Political cartooning is “sort of a negative art, but sometimes you can do a [positive] cartoon and you never know what’s going to happen and how it’s going to be received,” Luckovich said in an interview before Carter’s death (while noting that Carter once blurbbed a book the cartoonist wrote).

“I was so glad to do it for him and Rosalynn. They’ve both been such humble, beautiful human beings. It’s going to be difficult” when he dies, continued Luckovich, pausing as he became choked up. “He’s just been so important to this country.”

Luckovich’s recollections point to an evolution in how Carter, who died Sunday at 100, was portrayed by editorial cartoonists. During his

SEE CARTOONS ON C2



HERBLOCK/HERB BLOCK FOUNDATION/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
Post cartoonist Herblock often used metaphors in depicting Jimmy Carter.

They wrote Carter's obits. Some died before he did.

BY LAURA WAGNER

When former president Jimmy Carter died on Sunday at 100 years old, news organizations around the world quickly published substantial obituaries detailing his life and career, some of which were written decades ago by reporters who have long since moved on.

Larry Eichel, for example, wrote the Philadelphia Inquirer’s first draft of Carter’s obit nearly 35 years ago, when he was a reporter at the paper, part of a long-standing practice in journalism to string together biographical information, personal details and career milestones for notable figures in advance so as to be prepared when they die. Eichel’s daughter, Molly Eichel, who is now deputy managing editor at the Inquirer, wrote on social media on Sunday that her father left the paper in 2008, making Carter’s obit, which ran in print Monday, his first A1 story in 16 years.

“Ex-presidents are always at the top of the advance obituary list,” the elder Eichel told The Washington Post in a phone interview. “These are important people, major historical figures. You want to give them the appropriate

SEE OBITUARIES ON C2

# Carter's legacy through cartoons

CARTOONS FROM C1

presidency, Carter was routinely lampooned over issues such as inflation, the energy crisis and geopolitics, including the Iranian hostage crisis and mostly excluding the Camp David peace accords. Yet eventually during Carter's long post-presidency, as his reputation as a humanitarian and a diplomat grew, the cartoons became more glowing.

"Herblock and many other editorial cartoonists characterized Carter as an honest but ineffective leader during his presidency," said Sara Duke, curator of graphic art in the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress. "As he started to run for reelection in 1979 and 1980, many cartoonists placed in him in the shadow of Sen. Ted Kennedy."

Early in Carter's presidency, many cartoonists focused on exaggerating his toothy smile. At least one cartoon even depicted the president metaphorically disappearing, till all that was left was a Cheshire cat grin. (I even caricatured that signature smile in the '90s; Carter soon sent a note of appreciation about the illustration depicting him as a baseball player, which was put in the collection at the Carter Center.)

Yet by the end of his one term, as the energy and hostage crises worsened, Duke said, cartoonists had changed that expression: "It was a grimace."

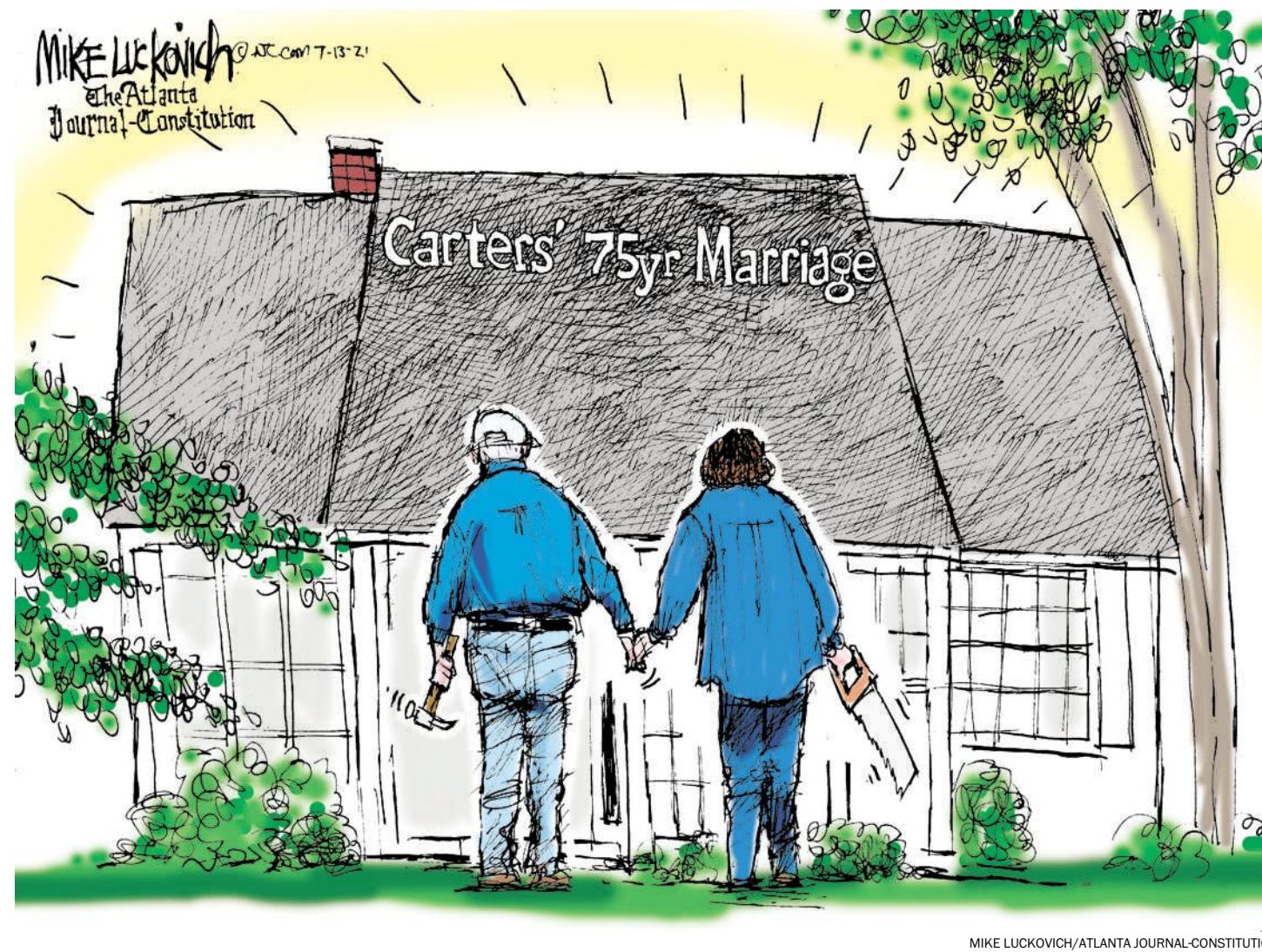
Herblock, the legendary Washington Post cartoonist, was fond of finding metaphors to render Carter's leadership as lacking. In a cartoon from 1978, Carter is dressed as a Scout unsuccessfully trying to spark a campfire amid a frigid winter scene — a work that mocks the president's efforts as an "energy leader." And in a cartoon from 1979, Carter holds a visitors' guide to Washington as he bellows at an empty Oval Office chair, "Who's in charge here?"

Among other works in the Library of Congress's collection, a 1978 cartoon by Patrick Oliphant, the retired Pulitzer winner, pictures Carter kneeling in prayer as he tries to repair an overloaded truck labeled, "State of the Union." In another Oliphant work, from 1980, Carter is attempting to debate candidate Ronald Reagan while tethered to an Iranian hostage.

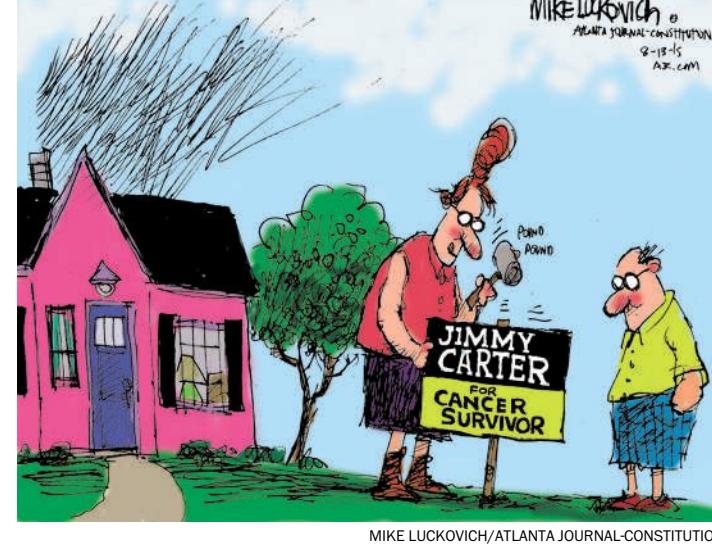
Yet the work of such political artists as Jim Borgman, the former Pulitzer-winning cartoonist for the Cincinnati Enquirer, reflects the shift in perception as Carter became an elder statesman.

"I was just beginning my political cartooning career as Jimmy Carter came into office, so it's hard to separate my own immaturity as a commentator from his legacy in office," Borgman told The Post. "In lockstep with the mainstream media, I lampooned his idea of linking foreign policy to human rights — an idea I would now heartily support."

"Like most others at the time, I made a big deal of the minor foibles of some of his administration's players that history eventually blows away with the wind," Borgman continued while citing such then-White House figures as budget director Bert Lance, press secretary Jody Powell and aide Hamilton Jordan. But only later did Borgman fully consider how Carter helped stabilize the White House so soon after the Watergate downfall of President Richard M. Nixon, who was pardoned by his successor, President Gerald Ford: "I certainly didn't appreciate all he did to bring honesty, decency and transparency back to the presidency, which, in perspective, was his greatest accomplishment."



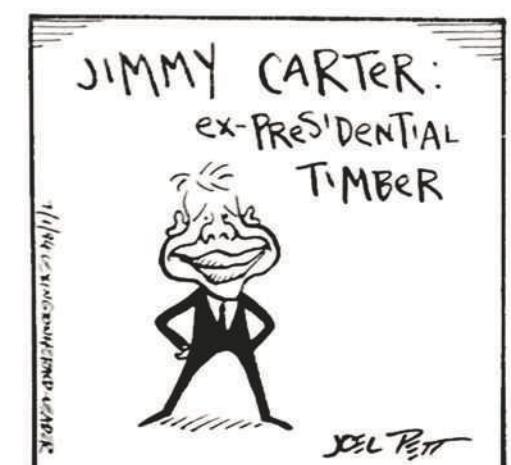
MIKE LUCKOVICH/ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION



MIKE LUCKOVICH/ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION



HERBLOCK/HERB BLOCK FOUNDATION/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



Tribute to the late Jimmy Carter, originally published July 1st, 1994

JOEL PETT/LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER

Today, Borgman values the lens of a longer view: "With the benefit of that perspective, I now see that I could have — should have — supported many of his ideas. I regret that I didn't more often turn my pen on his opponents. That toothy smile we all joked about was, in hindsight, an antidote to Nixon's toxic scowl."

Jack Ohman, a cartoonist and columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle, once drove a press bus in a Carter motorcade in 1978, while a 17-year-old political aide. In that era, he was also avidly tracking the barbs of the late cartooning great Jeff MacNelly, of whose work Ohman said: "I can assure you those cartoons stung Carter and may have even hurt him politically, which is an almost unheard-of influence in cartooning now."

Ohman, who thinks Carter was "vastly underrated" as a president, drew a 2015 cartoon that pithily summarizes Carter's life of public service and calls him a "good man" and "great ex-president."

"I tried to make my drawings of Carter reflect his rather world-weary but resolute faith in humanity," said Joel Pett, a Pulitzer-winning syndicated cartoonist. "It annoyed and angered me that many cartoonists drew him as hapless or weak — an image that apparently much of the country [once] shared."

Matt Wuerker, Politico's Pulitzer-winning cartoonist, cut his journalistic teeth on Carter while drawing for his school newspaper, the Pioneer Log, at Lewis and Clark College in the '70s. And his cartoons portrayed Carter in a negative light as recently as 2012, when he drew the Democratic and Republican presidential nominees trying to cast each other as Carter and Nixon.

"I have some guilt looking back at this," Wuerker said. "It's sadly emblematic of a facile take on Carter that set in right away, something many cartoonists perpetuated. He became a symbol of a failed presidency, which, taking the longer view, was truly unfair."

The Politico cartoonist considers this in retrospect: "Carter deserved better."

"We were unkind to a principled man who, on both a political and personal level, had a level of integrity and wisdom that is rarely found in our political leaders," Wuerker said.

Since Carter's death, the tribute cartoons have begun to stream in — in stark contrast to the frequent tone of more than four decades ago. "The point of an editorial cartoon, of course, is not to look back generously, but to offer an opinion at a moment in time, and persuade others to one's point of view," said Duke, the art curator. "Editorial cartoonists look back generously when they create an obituary cartoon."

After Carter went into hospice in early 2023, Luckovich prepared an obituary cartoon: Carter arrives at the pearly gates welcomed by tool-bearing angels who present him with the "Habitat for Jimmy" home they've built for him. (The nonprofit Habitat for Humanity, which was founded in Georgia during Carter's ascent to the White House, has long partnered with the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project.)

But after Carter's wife Rosalynn died in November 2023, Luckovich created a different cartoon, the first one he released this week: She greets him at those gates, running into his arms and shouting, simply, "Jimmy!"

"What amazing human beings these two were," Luckovich said in a video accompanying the cartoon, "and we're so lucky to have them in our lives."

Clockwise from top, Mike Luckovich's 2021 cartoon to celebrate the Carters' 75th wedding anniversary, a Herblock cartoon from 1978, a 1994 Joel Pett tribute, a 1978 Edmund S. Valtman cartoon depicting Jimmy Carter as the biblical David and a 2015 Luckovich cartoon about Carter's cancer diagnosis.

## One obit was written during idle time in '90

OBITUARIES FROM C1

ate treatment, and you can't do that on deadline."

Eichel, who is now 75 and works as a senior adviser at the Philadelphia-focused urban research group at the Pew Charita-

ble Trust that he started after leaving the Inquirer, recalled getting tapped to write the obit in 1990.

"I was kind of between assignments, and they were trying to figure out something useful for me to do. I had been covering politics, and at that time there were four living ex-presidents: Nixon, Ford, Reagan, Carter. And an editor said, 'Why don't you do advance obits on all of them?' Obviously the other three were used relatively quickly."

Carter's considerable longevity meant that some of his obit writers have by now left not only journalism but also their mortal coils. Former New York Times na-

tional reporter Roy Reed, who shares a byline on the newspaper's Carter obituary, died in 2017. The Post's Edward Walsh, who worked as the paper's White House correspondent during the Carter administration and has a byline on The Post's Carter obit, died in 2014. And the Guardian's Carter obituary was written by Harold Jackson, one of the paper's Washington correspondents during the Carter years, who died in 2021.

At The Post, legendary obituary editor J.Y. Smith — who was recognized for overhauling the paper's process for writing advance obituaries and who was the subject of his own colorful obituary after his death in 2006

— co-bylined roughly a dozen Post obits posthumously.

The practice of writing and publishing obituaries, even well after death, can be fraught: Who merits a newspaper obituary? Who decides who gets one? How to best take the measure of a person's life — their successes, shortcomings, good deeds and moral failings — in a single story?

Attempting to fully capture a person's life and imbue it with the appropriate weight and meaning before they are actually dead, then, can take on a slightly morbid quality. But the fact that an obit's subject can outlive its writer is simply an oddity of the process.

"Some readers clearly find the misalignment of the deaths jarring, but since we cannot be

permanently updating everything all the time, there are always going to be some cases where we'll stick with what we've got," Guardian obituary editor Robert White told The Post in an email.

White said his team starts thinking about obits for notable figures as soon as they turn 70, and he said the paper has some 2,000 obituaries on file.

"The website is just as keen as print to have good obits go up very quickly," White said. "They need to add value to the news accounts, and, of course, these days every single detail can be

challenged through Googling."

Carter's very long postpresidential public life meant obituary writers had a lot of material to work with. And because Carter entered hospice more than a year ago, news organizations were, as Eichel said, "put on alert."

Eichel added that he liked the process of writing advance obits, as it gave him "a chance to go back to recent history and read a lot of clippings and books, especially books that the subjects had written. ... I remember enjoying the work," he said.

And will his byline appear on any future obituaries in the Philadelphia Inquirer?

"No," Eichel said, with a laugh. "Pretty sure this is the last one."

# Box office down, but some see silver lining for silver screen

BY SAMANTHA MASUNAGA

While 2024 box office revenue was below 2023 totals — and crucially, below prepandemic figures in 2019 — the theatrical turnaround has the film industry breathing a sigh of relief.

Animation and family films, as well as sequels, won big at the box office this past year.

It wasn't good, but it could've been a lot worse. Given the lingering effects of last year's Hollywood labor strikes, the relative lack of big movies and a dismal first half of the year at the box office, the film industry is feeling relieved as 2024 comes to a close.

This past year's box office revenue could total \$8.75 billion in the United States and Canada, according to estimates from data firm Comscore. That figure would put the box office about 3 percent lower than in 2023. More dispiriting for theaters, it's down about 23 percent compared with 2019.

But the numbers also represent a remarkable turnaround considering revenue was down 27.5 percent just six months ago after a weak slate and a string of high-profile flops, before Pixar's "Inside Out 2" hit theaters in June.

"It was not your typical year because there was no traditional road map to follow through the entire calendar," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst at Comscore. "The fact that we're even here shows that audiences really love going to the movies, but they need a path to follow to get there."

While 2024 presented unique challenges for the film business, moviegoing still faces a slew of hurdles that were accelerated by the pandemic.

Once-regular movie watchers aren't seeing films in theaters at the same rate as before, waiting until their preferred movies show up as premium digital rentals or on streaming platforms. Films are also in theaters for shorter periods, meaning they're often gone by the time casual moviegoers decide to check out a flick.

Last year's strikes by Hollywood writers and actors also resulted in many movie releases being pushed out of 2024 due to production delays or a need for more marketing time. That meant there weren't as many wide releases for moviegoers to get excited about.

As of Dec. 18, there were 95

domestic releases in 2,000 theaters this past year, according to data from the National Association of Theatre Owners trade group. That paled in comparison with 2023 (101 films). Next year is expected to be stronger, with 110 wide-release movies on the schedule.

"As we were coming into the year, as a result of the strikes last year, I think there was clearly just some concern about what impact that would have," said Sean Gamble, chief executive of Plano, Texas-based movie theater chain Cinemark. "The big thing that we're just continuing to keep an eye on is what is the timing for volume, and where is volume going to fully fill out over the next couple of years."

A lighter release schedule, combined with bombs early in the year, such as Warner Bros. Pictures' "Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga" and Universal Pictures' "The Fall Guy," had industry players feeling apocalyptic about the movies. But a strong string of hits throughout the summer and holidays has put some wind back in the sails.

"We're ending the year in a better place than we were at the beginning of the year," Tony Chambers, head of theatrical distribution at the Walt Disney Studios, said of the industry's progress. "Part of it was how well these summer titles worked."

Animation was a major win for the year, grossing more than \$2 billion — a quarter of annual domestic box office revenue — and the biggest percentage ever for the genre. Summer films such as Universal Pictures and Illumination Entertainment's "Despicable Me 4" and "Inside Out 2," the latter of which became the highest-grossing film of the year with nearly \$1.7 billion in global sales, brought families to theaters in droves. Months later, Disney's "Moana 2" helped anchor a massive Thanksgiving weekend box office haul.

Worldwide, animated films brought in more than \$5 billion this past year, according to Comscore. Analysts have credited family films — and more broadly, PG-rated titles such as Universal's "Wicked" — with boosting this past year's box office. The films not only resonated with their target audience of families but also featured well-known and beloved characters, which can ease trepidation among families wrestling



BRANDON BELL/GETTY IMAGES

with whether a trip to the theaters is worth it.

While animated movies were a clear winner this summer, some superheroes also did their jobs. Marvel Studios' latest film, "Deadpool & Wolverine," grossed \$1.3 billion worldwide, boosting the Disney-owned studio's prospects after a string of lackluster films. The film also proved there is a niche for R-rated and irreverent storylines within the House of Mouse's largely family-friendly and PG-13 superhero universe.

The summer may have been bolstered by blockbusters, but Osgood Perkins's original indie "Longlegs" also contributed to the box office momentum. The breakout horror film, which stars Nicolas Cage, handed independent distributor Neon its biggest opening ever, with \$22 million, and came after an extensive and cryptic marketing campaign.

As summer turned into fall, the string of hits continued with Tim Burton's "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice," Ridley Scott's "Gladiator II" and the heavily marketed "Wicked." The continued momentum helped affirm that theatrical movies are still in demand, said Gamble of Cinemark.

In a recent meeting in Los Angeles with studio executives, he said a common topic of conversa-

tion was the meaning of this past year's box office for the health of theatrical exhibition.

"Everybody's viewed the collective results of this year as a really positive thing," Gamble said. "What we continue to see are examples that suggest the enthusiasm for moviegoing remains very robust."

Christmas weekend brought another robust period for moviegoing, led by family movies "Sonic the Hedgehog 3" and "Mufasa: The Lion King." Focus Features' dark horror movie "Nosferatu," inspired by the 1922 silent German vampire classic, launched with a powerful \$40 million Wednesday through Sunday. Searchlight's Bob Dylan biopic "A Complete Unknown," starring Timothée Chalamet, kicked off with an impressive \$23.2 million five-day debut.

Disney had an especially good year, as the studio crossed the \$2 billion mark in domestic box office with three of the top five films of 2024 — "Inside Out 2" and "Deadpool & Wolverine," each of which cracked \$1 billion globally at the box office, and "Moana 2," which has now grossed almost \$821 million worldwide. That puts the Burbank, California, media and entertainment giant at about 25 percent of this past year's box office.

"The successes we've had this year show that audiences are eager for that unbeatable experience of watching a great movie in a theater with a crowd of people who are enjoying it just as much as they are," Alan Bergman, co-chairman of Disney Entertainment, said in a statement.

While blockbusters filled seats in theaters this past year, there were also plenty of duds.

Oscar-winning director Francis Ford Coppola's massive, \$120 million passion project "Megalopolis" hit a hard wall at the box office, grossing just \$4 million in its opening weekend and less than \$14 million total worldwide. The loosely Roman-themed fable about an architect in a futuristic New York was anathema to major studios, leaving Coppola to shoulder much of the financial risk himself.

Kevin Costner's western epic "Horizon: An American Saga — Chapter 1" met a similar fate, grossing just \$38 million worldwide after the "Yellowstone" actor put up his own property to fund the film. The movie was the first in a planned four-part saga. After the first movie's reception, the sequel was pulled from its scheduled August theatrical release.

Despite the success of "Deadpool & Wolverine," other films re-

lated to superheroes didn't fare as well theatrically, including Sony Pictures' "Madame Web" and "Kraven the Hunter," along with Warner Bros.' comic book sequel turned musical "Joker: Folie à Deux." Eli Roth's video game adaptation "Borderlands" also failed to connect with audiences, as did Lionsgate's reboot of horror film "The Crow."

Still, film industry executives and analysts say they feel hopeful about 2025 — a year in which the effects of the strikes and the pandemic are further in the rearview mirror, and the cadence of movies gets closer to normal.

Industry leaders said 2025 should be a return to the trajectory the business was on before the pandemic and the strikes. Next year's slate is stocked with superhero fare ("Captain America: Brave New World," "Thunderbolts" and a new DC reboot of "Superman"), action films ("Mission: Impossible — The Final Reckoning" and "Jurassic World Rebirth") as well as sequels to popular films ("Now You See Me 3," "Zootopia 2" and "Wicked: For Good").

The success of — and reliance on — sequels and reboots is also going to force a future reckoning for new stories.

Though original films like A24's "Civil War," Amazon MGM Studios' "Challengers" and "Longlegs" cashed in at the box office, the entirety of the top 10 highest-grossing films domestic or worldwide this past year were sequels or films based on existing stories. ("Wicked," as an adaptation of the 21-year-old Broadway play and a revision of the classic "Wizard of Oz," is included in this.)

"What studios and exhibition and the industry needs to focus on is possibly how to cut through with original content," said Chambers of Disney. "Being able to have original titles cut through, that's going to be the challenge."

— Los Angeles Times

## Platform is a unique #classical haven

NOTEBOOK FROM C1

Scroll through TikTok for a few minutes (that can easily stretch into a few hours), and the odds are good that you'll encounter one of the 2.6 million posts set to Frédéric Chopin's "Nocturne No. 2" — the wistful sigh of its melody somehow compatible with countless expressions of Gen-Z ennui and millennial frustration. You might encounter the same bracing "Dies irae" excerpt from Verdi's "Requiem," deployed at high volume to soundtrack anything from grim political revelations to sick dance moves. Across hundreds of thousands of clips, you might hear Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" accompanying mournful post-

election slideshows, scoring a mother's dramatic performance of things her toddler says or making an elephant cry.

By all measures, TikTok might seem like plainly inhospitable terrain for classical music. It's a platform built on instant gratification and fractured attention. It's powered by impatience and impulse. It feeds you what you like based strictly on algorithmic responses to your individual "interest signals." It's a defiantly unserious place where context, nuance and meaning are double-tapped to a pulp.

But despite these odds and obstacles, classical music — an art form best known for constantly dying and losing its grip on popular culture — has become part of the cultural fabric of TikTok, even as it's shredded to bits.

I should specify I'm not here referring to American orchestras that are officially "on" TikTok for marketing purposes. Many should be, most aren't, but a few are. They're just not very good at it.

The Los Angeles Philharmonic, for instance, serves classical-themed memes and back-office antics. The Boston Symphony Or-

chestra crops longer professionally produced videos into fleeting samples that register more like ads for concerts that have already passed. The National Symphony Orchestra now and then wriggles its way onto the Kennedy Center's rather anemic TikTok account: One attractively produced clip of Julien Baker's recent appearance with the NSO makes me wish the orchestra had its own stand-alone presence on the app.

And while the New York Philharmonic's account is surprisingly light on followers (a meager 11,000), its page is admirably stocked with performance clips and dives into the archives — a savvy way of blowing the dust off of its institutional history.

If it seems like a dubious notion that 15 seconds of Chopin could effectively cut through the overwhelming noise of social media and make an impact on young listeners, I would simply point to the formative musical education I obtained eating Froot Loops and watching Looney Tunes as a kid.

Or the one my folks got when tuning in to CBS to watch Leonard Bernstein host "Omnibus." It was through unremarkable instances

of instruction and insinuation that we first heard the music we still carry with us today. (Maybe the person in a shark suit dancing to "Swan Lake" after the Ravens beat the Texans will be some young scroller's first encounter with Tchaikovsky.)

TikTok is surprisingly rich with these little opportunities for discovery. A landing page that displays when a curious user searches "Moonlight Sonata," for instance, assembles a block of explanatory text on the piece from Wikipedia, a grid of performance videos, a selection of tutorials (including "Guitar Hero"-style animations of the sonata's notes raining down across a blinking keyboard), and a row of buttons to sort the hundreds of options by category (e.g., "1st Movement," "guitar," "Beethoven").

As any defender of the platform will tell you, TikTok's appeal springs entirely from one's fellow TikTokers and the ease with which they're able to form tight-knit communities online. While orchestras struggle to "engage" younger listeners, young classical fans find each other quite easily (and in great, untapped numbers)

on the platform.

With over a million followers, baritone Babatunde Akinboboye has become one of the app's most popular classical influencers, offering insights on opera, profiles of some of its biggest names, answers to the form's most stubborn questions and revealing dives into the history of Black composers and musicians. Classical harpist Madison Calley has found an audience of nearly half a million for her jeweled renditions of pop hits by the likes of SZA, Beyoncé and Brandy.

User Emilio Piano has attracted hundreds of thousands with clips capturing (seemingly) impromptu duets around a shopping mall piano. Pianist Mike Chen has amassed 64,000 followers simply by proposing that warhorses from Vivaldi, Bach and Saint-Saëns are, in fact, bangers.

If TikTok's fashion and makeup contingent have GRWN (Get Ready With Me) videos, the classical community has its own take in the form of endless rehearsal clips and practice runs. Young performers use the platform as a way to compile and exchange insights on the music they're learning. Lately,

I've been getting into piano student Chase L's thoughtful investigations of Scriabin and Gershwin. (Also, Juilliard violin student Maya Kilburn discovering the signature twinkling sound of a Super Mario coin tucked into Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade.")

And like any well-developed internet niche, #classicaltik creates space for in-jokes. It's hard to imagine another forum where a reference to Liszt's "Transcendental Etudes" could pass for a punch line.

With all of this said, I respect any and all trepidation when it comes to TikTok. It can be a woeful timesuck and an entirely unproductive hobby. It's a bottomless pit of fleeting pleasures, micro-traumas and ephemeral rewards. In many ways, it's an abusive algorithmic relationship you can hold in the palm of your hand. It may even be a national security threat.

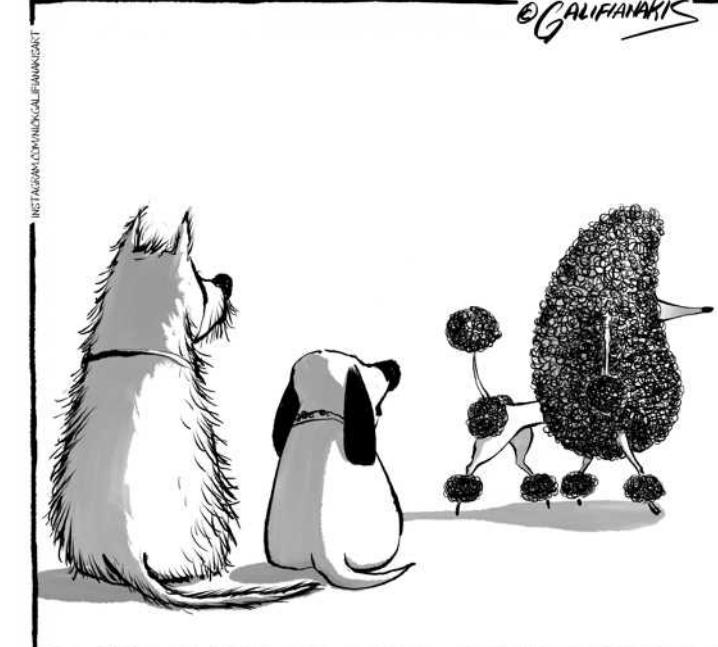
But the more I scroll on TikTok, the more I see a place where classical music still has a chance to shape culture; where art, music and creativity are cultivated, encouraged and preserved. Before it goes away forever, it's a resource worth tapping.

## It irks me when people buy purebred dogs. How can I be less judgmental?

— Judy

**Judy:** Ahhhh, this is a soapbox rant waiting to happen, isn't it? I mean, 100 percent yes to adopting (Ned the Rescue just sighed theatrically as I typed that, I swear), yes to the sad fact of dogs languishing in shelters or worse, yes to pinning most failed adoptions on people, not the dogs.

Emphasis "most": Some dogs do belong with experienced handlers only. But same goes for purebred dogs. And certainly, some breeds are *generally* more rookie-proof than others. It's not that there are bad breeds or dogs, but the whole point of breeds is to select for traits, and matching traits to circumstances is smart, so I won't dismiss selection outright. Though no trait pairs well with ignorance.



See, you got me going on dogs. But while the advice to "shop" shelters, pleeeeeease, is well worth repeating, the advice on being less judgy isn't dog-specific. All it takes is a simple, deliberate, repetitive practice requiring no hairy specifics.

Step 1 is wanting to be less judgy. Obvious, but it's everything, and harder than it

looks. Judging is carbs for the ego — so tasty and hard to resist and havoc when overdone.

Once you're serious about better habits, then you're ready for Step 2, openness to understanding others' choices. Think: overrides to your judging mechanism, in the form of mental lists you compose of good — or at least sympathetic — reasons people might do the things you're tempted to judge.

Example: You witness a stranger behaving badly in public. Override: Maybe they're dealing with a sick parent and a breakup and a crisis at work and they just cracked. (Have all *your* moments been exemplary?)

You get the picture. So in this case, you see someone's \$3,000 dog and, quick! — before the judgy voice takes over — you think: 1. Allergy mitigation. 2. Very specific needs, like a working dog. 3. Low confidence and felt "safe" with a breeder. 4. Breed-specific rescue. 5. Ignorance, bad information, bad experience.

Note I am not making arguments to get a purebred dog; these are reasons to shut your yap when you are tempted

to think it's your business when someone else has a purebred dog. You don't know why, so assume the best and keep walkin'.

There's a reason I called this a practice. "Nonjudgmentalism" is like yoga in having two levels, one that's a set of moves and another that's a state of mind. If you adopt this practice of listing possible reasons people do what they do, then you're repeating a basic move that has the secondary effect of creating a more forgiving state of mind.

It's less about moral relativism than it is about minding your business. It can even help identify — conveniently, now — when we're faced with true acts of bad faith. That's when the list-making process turns up no good reasons, just a lot of self-interest doing even more harm.

Write to Carolyn Hax at [tellme@washpost.com](mailto:tellme@washpost.com). Get her column delivered to your inbox each morning at [wapo.st/gethax](http://wapo.st/gethax).

Join the discussion live at noon Fridays at [washingtonpost.com/live-chats](http://washingtonpost.com/live-chats).

**Carolyn Hax**  
Dear Carolyn:  
Any advice on how to be less judgy of people who pay money — sometimes lots of money — for purebred dogs when there are so many dogs in shelters in need of homes? Every one of my dogs has been a rescue, and they're all — seriously ALL — been exceptionally nice, well-behaved, adorable dogs. I think a lot of people buy purebreds because "you never know what you'll get from a shelter." But in actuality, they just don't know how to train dogs, so ANY dog they get is going to be poorly behaved and have "issues," whether they pay a \$50 adoption fee or \$3,000. See? Judy.

Emphasis "most": Some dogs do belong with experienced handlers only. But same goes for purebred dogs. And certainly, some breeds are *generally* more rookie-proof than others. It's not that there are bad breeds or dogs, but the whole point of breeds is to select for traits, and matching traits to circumstances is smart, so I won't dismiss selection outright. Though no trait pairs well with ignorance.

## TELEVISION

1/3/25	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
4.1 WRC (NBC)	• NBCN..	• News4..	• Happy's	• Lopez vs	• Dateline NBC		• News		
4.2 WRC (IND)	Frasier	Frasier	King	King	King	King	Frasier	Frasier	Frasier
5.3 WTTG (Fox)	• Fox 5	• TMZ	• Basketball Michigan	Michigan State at Ohio State	• Fox 5 at 10		• News		
7.1 WJLA (ABC)	• Wheel	• Leopard.	• High Potential	• 20/20			• News		
9.1 WUSA (CBS)	• InsideEd..	• ET	• Ced Awards	• Fire Country	• S.W.A.T.		• 9 News		
14.1 WFDC (UNI)	• Rosa		• Fugitives	• Juana	• El precio		• Noticias		
20.1 WDCW (MTV)	• FamFeud	• FamFeud	• Fox 5 News	• TrueCri..	• Crime	• FamFe..	• FamFe..	• Chi. Fire	
22.1 WMPT (PBS)	• State	• Artworks	• Midso..	(:45) • Midsomer	(:45) • Independent Lens		• Amanp..		
26.1 WETA (PBS)	• PBS News Hour	• Week	• History	• Independent Lens			• Amanp..		
32.1 WHUT (PBS)	• N'DIGO	• FilmSk..	• The Misadventures	• Dean Parson	• DmvB..	• BBCN..			
50.1 WDCW (CW)	• BobHeart	• BobHeart	• Inside the NFL	• Whose	• Whose	• DC News Now	• Neighbor		
66.1 WPXW (ION)	• Magnum P.I.		• Magnum P.I.	• Magnum P.I.	• Magnum P.I.	• Magnum P.I.	• Magnum		
A&E	The First 48	The First 48	Cold Case Files	Cold Case Files	Fist48				
AMC	(5:30) Movie: Sleepy Hollow	★★★ (1999)	Movie: The Lost Boys	★★★ (1987)	Movie: Ghostbusters	★★★ (1984)			
Animal Planet	Treehouse Masters	Treehouse Masters	Treehouse Masters	Treehouse Masters	Treehouse				
BET	(5:30) Movie: Friday (1...)	Movie: Next Friday	★★ (2000)		Movie: Friday After N...				
Bravo	(6:00) Movie: The Mask (1994) (P)	Movie: Dumb and Dumber	★★★ (1994)	Two witness wonders take a cash-laden briefcase to Aspen. (P)	Movie: The Mask	★★★ (1994)			
Cartoon Network	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy		
CNN	E. B. OutFront (Live)	Cooper 360 (Live)	The Source (Live)	CNN (Live)	Laura				
Comedy Central	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld		
Discovery	Gold Rush	Gold Rush			(:10) Last W.	GoldRush			
Disney	Big City	Big City	Movie: Incredibles 2	★★★ (2018)	StuGo	(:45) Kiff	(:10) Kiff		
E!	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	Office	Office	Office		
ESPN	(4:00) Football	Duke's Mayo Bowl: Minnesota vs. Virginia Tech (Live)			SportCtr (Live)				
ESPN2	College Basketball	Wichita State at Temple (Live)	College Basketball	Saint Joseph's at Saint Louis (Live)	Cornhole				
Food Network	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners		
Fox News	Ingraham (Live)	Jesse Watters (Live)	Hannity (Live)	Gutfeld!	Fox News				
Freeform	(5:05) Movie: Spider-Man: No Way Home (...)	Children tour the wondrous factory of an odd confectioner.			The 700 Club				
FX	Movie: Captain America: Civil War	★★★ (2016)	Captain America (Chris Evans)	Movie: Captain America: Civil War (2...)					
Hallmark	Movie: Sugarploated (2024)	Emily wishes for a perfect Christmas like in the movies.	The Way Home	Movie: A '90s Christmas (2024)					
Hallmark M&M	(6:00) Movie: My Christmas Dream (20...)	Movie: Mystery on Mistletoe Lane (2023)		Movie: A Season for Family (2023)					
HBO	(5:50) Movie: R... songwriter, activist and actor Stevie Van Zandt.	Movie: Stevie Van Zandt: Disciple (2024)	Musician, Stevie Van Zandt.	Movie: Scream	★★★ (1996)				
HGTV	DreamHo..	DreamHo..	DreamHo..	DreamHo..	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters		
History	UnBelievable	UnBelievable	UnBelievable	(:05) Mysteries	UnBelievable				
Lifetime	The Rookie	The Rookie	The Rookie	(:05) The Rookie	(:05) The Rookie	(:05) The Rookie			
MASN	2024 Perfect Game All-American Classic		Sports	Pulse/P..	Pro Football Plus				
Monumental	Beyond the Wizards	NBA Basketball	Postgame (Live)						
MSNBC	The ReidOut (Live)	All In With (Live)	Wagner (Live)	Last Word (Live)	11th Hour				
MTV	(6:30) Drag Race	RuPaul's Drag Race	Untucked	(:55) Movie: Easy A	★★★ (2010)				
Nat'l Geographic	Disaster Autopsy	Disaster Autopsy	Disaster Autopsy	Disaster Autopsy	Disaster				
Nickelodeon	Movie: Sing (2016)	Movie: Sing	★★★ (2016)	Friends	Friends	Friends			
NWSN	On Balance (Live)	Cuomo (Live)	Dan Abrams (Live)	Banfield (Live)	Cuomo				
Paramount	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Movie: Django Unchained	★★★ (2012)	An ex-slave and a German bounty hunter roam America's South.				
Paramount+Sho	(5:00) Movie: Braveheart (1995)	Dexter: Original Sin	The Agency	Movie: The Big Short	★★★ (2015)				
Syfy	(2:55) Movie: The Forever Purge	★★ (2021)	Masked thugs attack a couple and a family on a Texas ranch.	Movie: The Day After Tomorrow	★★ (2004)				
TBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	Movie: The Fate of the Furious	★★ (2017)	Movie: Fast & Furiou...				
TCM	(6:30) Movie: Cain and Mabel (1936)	Movie: Spellbound	★★★ (1945)	Movie: The Manchurian Candidate	★★★ (1962)				
TLC	90 Day Fiancé	90 Day Fiancé: Before the 90 Days	Sister Wives	Sister					
TNT	(5:30) Movie: Kong: Skull Island (2017)	Movie: Godzilla vs. Kong	★★ (2021)	Godzilla and Kong square off in an epic battle.	Movie: Pacific Rim Uprising	★★ (2018)			
Travel	The Dead Files	The Dead Files	The Dead Files	The Dead Files	The Dead Files	Dead Files			
TruTV	Movie: We Are Marshall	★★ (2006) (P)	Evolve &	Movie: We Are Marshall (2006)					
TV Land	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	King		
TV One	CosbySh..	CosbySh..	CosbySh..	CosbySh..	CosbySh..	CosbySh..	CosbySh..		
USA Network	Chicago Fire	WWE Friday Night SmackDown (Live)		Movie					
VH1	(5:00) Movie: Jerry Ma...	Movie: Friends With Benefits	★★★ (2011)	Movie: Billy Madison ...					
WNC8	Mercy	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	SportsTalk	WorldNe..	WJLNe..	Inogen!	National

LEGEND: **Bold** indicates new or live programs • High Definition  
Movie Ratings (from TMS) ★★★ Excellent ★★★ Good ★★ Fair ★ Poor No stars: not rated

## HOROSCOPE

the time to push your agenda.

## CANCER

(JUNE 21-JULY 22). You might be unhappy with money issues this morning, something to do with your possessions or how something is shared. Let that go, because as this day wears on, you can be happy. Travel for pleasure and interacting with someone who is "different" will be fun!

## LEO

(JULY 23-AUG. 22). Lighten up today. It's not easy right now though, because Mars is retrograde in your sign for the first time since 2010. This robs you of your energy and, at the same time, throws a wrench into your plans. This will be over Feb. 27. Until then, hang in there. Don't take the bait this morning. Stay chill.

## VIRGO

(AUG. 23-SEPT. 22). Something going on behind the scenes might create some angst for you this morning. You might know what it is — you might not. Nevertheless, give this little focus. Instead, this can be a friendly, sociable, fun-loving day! Go with the energy that is positive.

## LIBRA

(SEPT. 23-OCT. 22). Don't get your belly in a rash today over friends or groups, because it will upset you. As the day wears on, this will become less important. Fortunately, relations with co-workers are excellent today. It's a great day for short trips, chatting to siblings and relatives or hanging out at home.

## PISCES

(OCT. 23-NOV. 21). Power struggles related to bosses, parents and your family might take place this morning. This might be a

simmering energy throughout the day. However, if you're wise, you'll ignore this and focus on romance, social diversions, playful activities with kids, the arts and having a great time!

## SAGITTARIUS

(NOV. 22-DEC. 21). Resist the urge to get involved in an argument with someone today, especially this morning. There is no upside. Don't do this to yourself. Instead, enjoy making your home more attractive and perhaps entertaining. Invite someone over for good food and drink!

## CAPRICORN

(DEC. 22-JAN. 19). Avoid money squabbles this morning or arguments about responsibilities. This conflict will fade. Meanwhile, if you change your focus, this is a lovely day to schmooze with others! Not only will you enjoy talking to people, you will also appreciate the beauty of your daily surroundings.

## AQUARIUS

(JAN. 20-FEB. 18). Avoid power struggles with partners and close friends today, especially this morning. Instead, focus on conversations with younger people. Financial matters will benefit you. You might buy something beautiful that is meaningful.

## PISCES

(FEB. 19-MARCH 20). This is an excellent day to shop for wardrobe items, including shoes and boots. Steer clear of office politics or power struggles related to your work or your health. This will ruin your day. Stay chill.

— Georgia Nicols

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## BRIDGE

**A**fter all the adversity Unlucky Louie has faced in my club's penny game, he's become something of a fatalist.

"If my ship ever came in," Louie said to me, "it would be a hardship."

Louie blames his poor results on bad luck despite all the evidence to the contrary. When he played at today's four spades, West led the jack of diamonds and a diamond to East's 10. Louie ruffed and wanted to ruff his heart loser in dummy: At Trick Two he led a low heart.

East won and led a high diamond, and Louie was in the soup. If he ruffed with the ace, he would lose two trumps; when he ruffed low, West overruffed with the 10, and East still got a trump trick. Down one.

"Another hardship case," Louie groaned. "I make the contract if West has three trumps."

Louie's approach was wrong. After he ruffs the second diamond, he takes the A-K of trumps. He ruffs a

diamond, leads a club to dummy, ruffs a diamond and leads more clubs. The defense gets only East's high trump and a heart.

## DAILY QUESTION

You hold:

♦ A 7 6 4 2 ♠ A 6 3

♦ 6 ♠ K 10 6

You open one spade, your partner bids two clubs, you raise to three clubs and he tries 3NT. What do you say?

**ANSWER:** I would be reluctant to play at notrump. I would pass with K Q J 9, A 6, 7, 6, K 10 6 — with a semibalanced pattern and a source of winners in spades — but on the actual hand, slam is possible. Bid five clubs or cue-bid four hearts. If partner has 8, K Q 5, A 8 7 3, A J 9 8 4, you make six clubs.

— Frank Stewart

## BOTH SIDES VULNERABLE

**NORTH**  
♦ K 53  
♥ J 4  
♦ Q 873  
♣ A J 82

**WEST**  
♦ J 10  
♥ Q 8752  
♦ J 5  
♣ 7543

**EAST (D)**

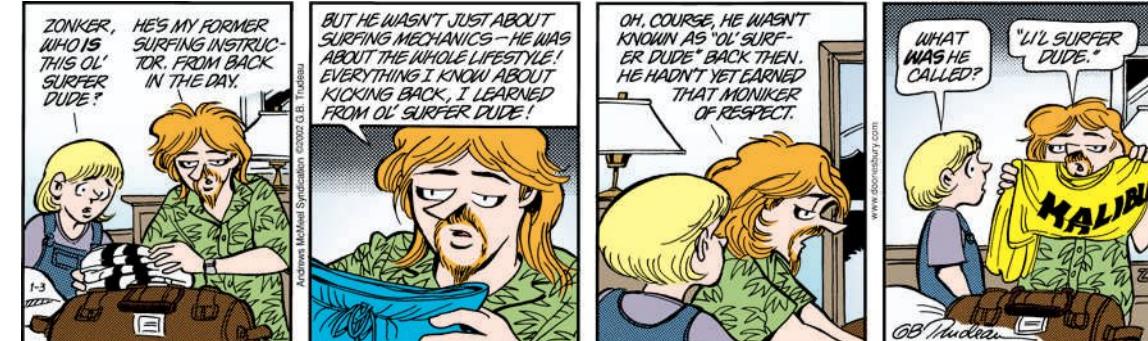
♦ Q 98

♥ K 10 9

♦ A K 10 9 4 2

♣ 9

## CLASSIC DOONESBURY



GARRY TRUEAU

## RED AND ROVER



BRIAN BASSET

## FRANK AND ERNEST



TOM THAVES

## CLASSIC PEANUTS



CHARLES SCHULZ

## RHYMES WITH ORANGE



HILARY PRICE

## LIO



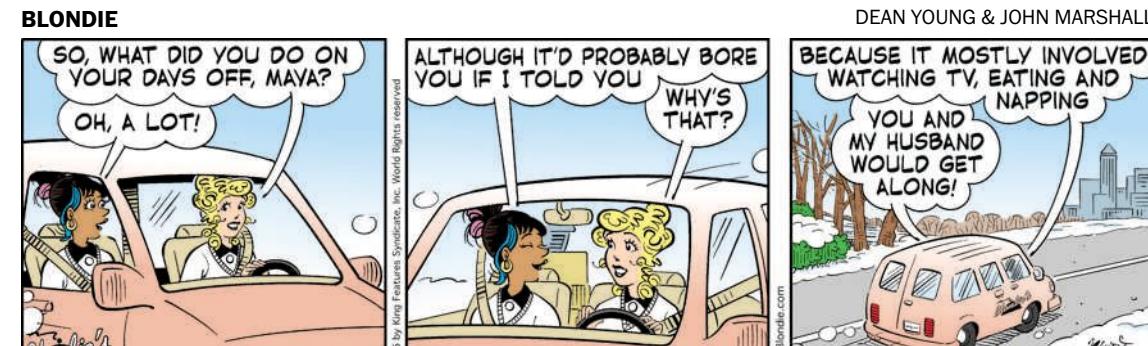
MARK TATULLI

## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



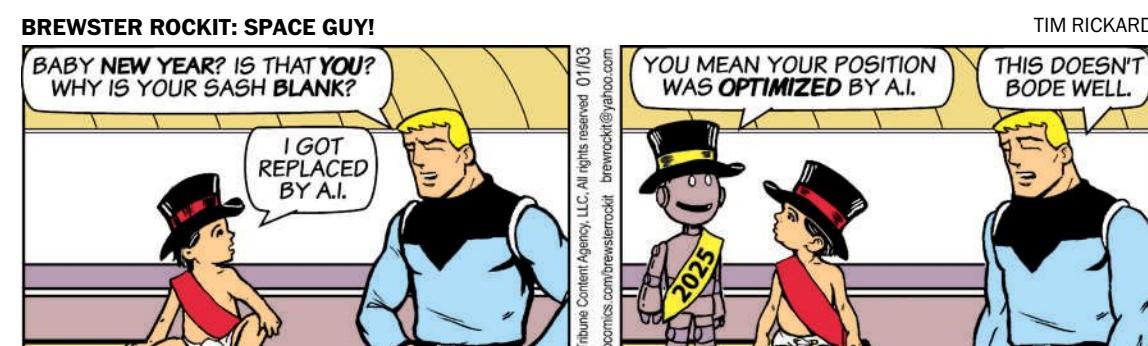
CHRIS BROWNE

## BLONDIE



DEAN YOUNG &amp; JOHN MARSHALL

## BREWSTER ROCKIT: SPACE GUY!



TIM RICKARD

## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



STEPHAN PASTIS

## PICKLES



BRIAN CRANE

## AGNES



TONY COCHRAN

## WUMO



MIKAEL WULFF &amp; ANDERS MORGENTHALER

## CRABGRASS



TAUHID BONDIA

## MARK TRAIL



JULES RIVERA

## MOTHER GOOSE &amp; GRIMM



MOTHER GOOSE &amp; GRIMM

## BALDO



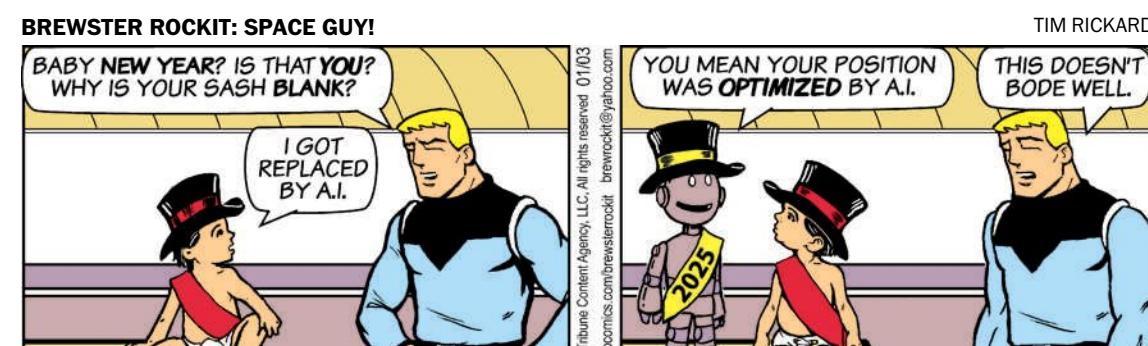
HECTOR CANTU &amp; CARLOS CASTELLANOS

## SALLY FORTH



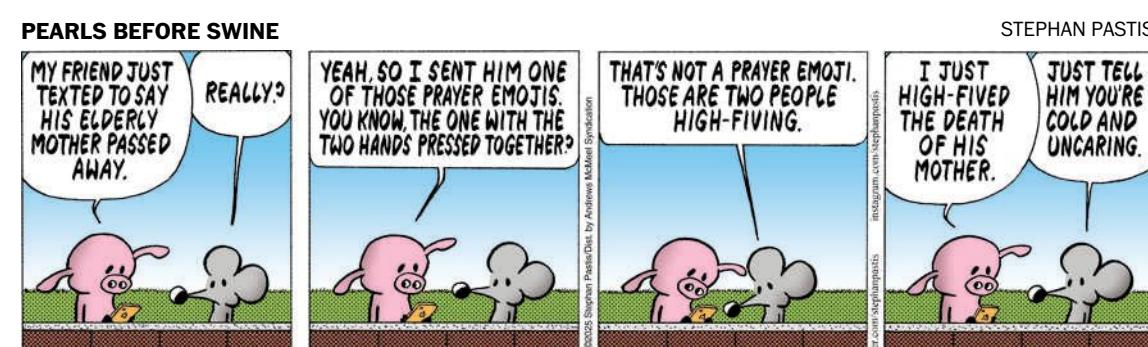
FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO &amp; JIM KEEFE

## SHERMAN'S LAGOON



JIM TOOMEY

## CURTIS



RAY BILLINGSLEY

## THE END.



## MUTTS



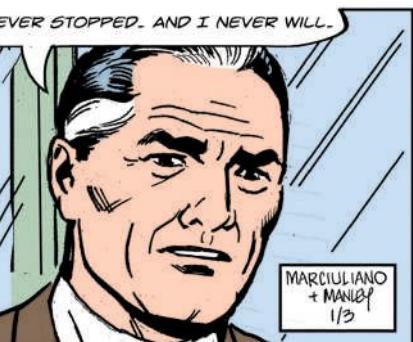
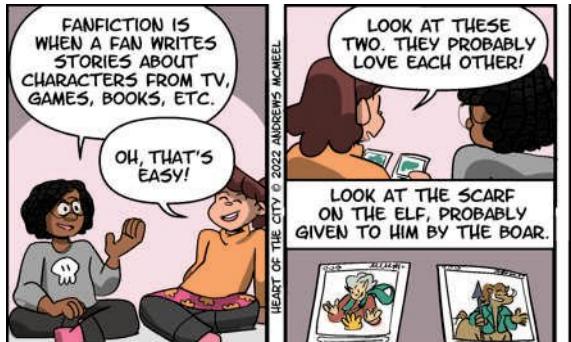
PATRICK McDONNELL

## ZITS



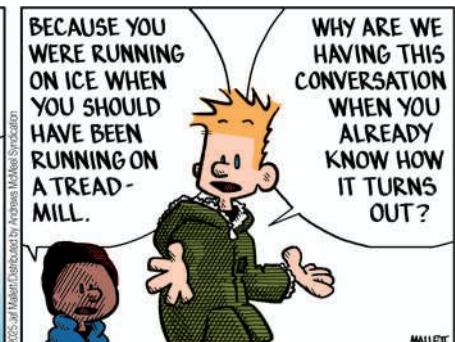
JERRY SCOTT &amp; JIM BORGMAN

## HEART OF THE CITY



FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO &amp; MIKE MANLEY

## FRAZZ



JEF MALLETT

## CANDORVILLE



DARRIN BELL

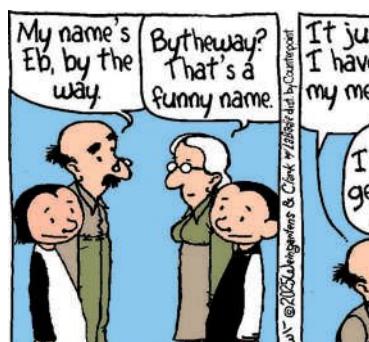
## GARFIELD



JIM DAVIS

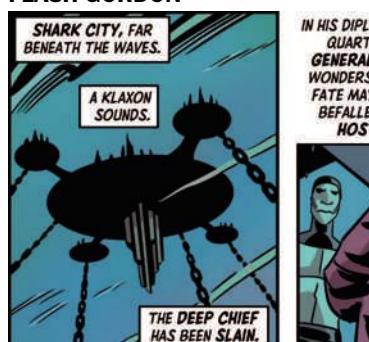
WEINGARTENS &amp; CLARK

## BARNEY AND CLYDE



WEINGARTENS &amp; CLARK

## FLASH GORDON



DAN SCHKADEN

## LOOSE PARTS



DAVE BLAZEK

## BABY BLUES



RICK KIRKMAN &amp; JERRY SCOTT

## SPEED BUMP

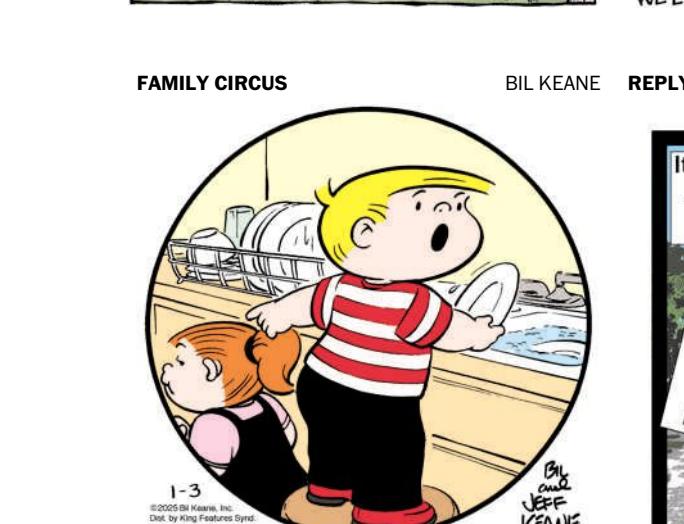


DAVE COVERLY

DENNIS THE MENACE

H. KETCHAM

## FAMILY CIRCUS



BIL KEANE

REPLY ALL LITE

DONNA A. LEWIS



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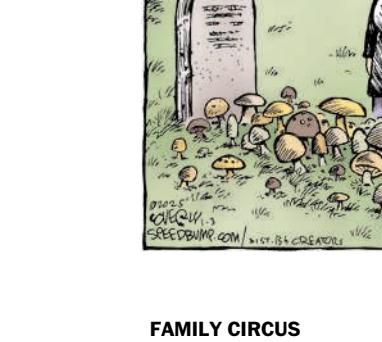
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1-3

## ON THE FASTRACK

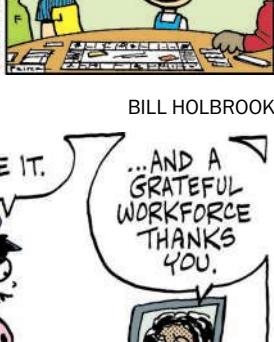


BILL HOLBROOK



BIL HOLBROOK

## BIG NATE



LINCOLN PIERCE



# The Washington Post

# SPORTS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2025

D

## PRO FOOTBALL

The Commanders place Jayden Daniels and Terry McLaurin on the Pro Bowl team as primary selections. **D3**

## PRO BASKETBALL

Don't look now, but the Wizards are starting to look ... competent? And improved defense is a big reason. **D4**

## ON FOOTBALL

Ohio State now looks like the CFP favorite, and Steven Godfrey says the Buckeyes have Michigan to thank. **D5**



GERALD HERBERT/ASSOCIATED PRESS

NOTRE DAME 23, GEORGIA 10: The Irish's defense kept the SEC champion Bulldogs quiet in Thursday afternoon's Sugar Bowl at the Superdome in New Orleans.

## Setting a sweet tone

*Every public gathering is a target – and a small act of defiance*



**Sally Jenkins**  
There is more to a game than a stadium: A contest swirls through a beloved city such as New Orleans for more than four quarters, for longer even than a day. The assumption that our advanced optics and organized policing can make a host city "secure" is a problem in itself — our very faith in our systems exposes us. The simple truth is that it's

impossible to defend against a howler of murderous spite crudely wielding a ramming weapon in an area frothy with carousers. But I'll be damned if I'll give up Bourbon Street. The Superdome, like most large football stadiums in urban settings, is not an isolated, insulate-able venue; it comes with what terrorism experts call "the supply chain of the major sporting event," a fancy phrase for the avenues of bars, malls and fan zones sticky with whiskey and

SEE JENKINS ON D5

In game delayed by attack, Irish stifle Bulldogs to reach CFP semifinal

BY JESSE DOUGHERTY

NEW ORLEANS — There was a football game here Thursday, about 19 hours after there was supposed to be a football game here Wednesday. And if you didn't know what happened in the pre-dawn hours of New Year's Day — that a man sped a truck into a crowd of revelers on Bourbon Street, that he killed at least 14 people, that the Sugar Bowl, both an afterthought and a College Football Playoff game, was postponed while more than

400 officers swept the city for explosive devices — then, well, that's all this really was at the Superdome.

A football game.

Notre Dame beat Georgia, 23-10.

In the sports world, that meant a ton for both teams. Notre Dame advanced to the College Football Playoff semifinals, in which it will face Penn State in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 9. Georgia's season ends three wins short of a national title. Just before halftime, it

SEE SUGAR BOWL ON D5

CFP semifinals | Orange Bowl: 7 Notre Dame vs. 6 Penn State, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m., ESPN; Cotton Bowl: 5 Texas vs. 8 Ohio State, Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m., ESPN

## Ovechkin gets goal, but Caps sputter late

**WILD 4, CAPITALS 3 (SO)**

Captain scores his 871st before loss in shootout

BY BAILEY JOHNSON

The Minnesota Wild has had the Washington Capitals' number over the past three seasons, and that run continued Thursday night at Capital One Arena — with this latest chapter ending in a shootout.

The Wild improved to 6-0-1 in its past seven meetings with the Capitals after it rallied for a 4-3 win.

Washington blew two leads and ran out of answers after it allowed the final tying goal with just under nine minutes left in the third period.

Goaltender Charlie Lindgren made 30 saves on 33 shots. Minnesota netminder Marc-Andre Fleury, who has indicated this season will be his last, probably made his final start at Capital One Arena and stopped 28 of 31, then all three of Washington's shooters in the shootout.

"They're a good team," winger Tom Wilson said. "They check hard. It was tight both ways. There wasn't a lot of chances. Comes down to a shootout, and they capitalize on one. But it was a hard-fought, back-and-forth type of game."

Captain Alex Ovechkin scored his 18th goal of the season and the 871st of his career, leaving him just 24 away from breaking Wayne Gretzky's NHL record of 894. The strike came late in the second period and was the 28th time he has beaten Fleury, the goaltender he has victimized the most in his 20-year career.

"Twenty years we played against each other. It's always fun," Ovechkin said. "It's always challenge. He's one of the best goalies out there. It's huge challenge when you play against him."

Midway through the first period, Wilson put Washington (25-10-3) in the lead with a

SEE CAPITALS ON D2

**Chasing Gretzky**

Capitals captain Alex Ovechkin is nearing Wayne Gretzky's NHL career goals mark of 894.

GOALS FROM BREAKING THE RECORD

**24**

**Rangers at Capitals**  
Saturday, noon, ABC

## Terrapins stay red-hot, cruise past Scarlet Knights

**MARYLAND 78, RUTGERS 61**

BY KAREEM COPELAND

Kaylene Smikle needed all of 22 seconds to send her former team a reminder. On Maryland's first possession, the transfer from Rutgers squared up as soon as the ball touched her hands and buried a three-pointer.

That was the first time Smikle irritated Rutgers, but it wouldn't be the last in Maryland's 78-61 win at Xfinity Center. Smikle and Rutgers guard Lisa Thompson were both hit with technical fouls after a second-quarter steal by Smikle. Thompson grabbed Smikle's arm, and the Maryland junior gave a bit of extra emphasis in shrugging her off. There was even some shoulder-to-shoulder contact between Smikle and

SEE MARYLAND ON D4

**Maryland at Iowa**  
Sunday, 6 p.m., Big Ten Network

**U-Md. men fall to Huskies:** Terps struggle on road in 75-69 loss. **D5**



HANNAH FOSLIEN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Maryland's Shyanne Sellers finished with 22 points, eight rebounds and three assists in the victory.

## Stock on rise, Kingsbury still hopes to run the show

Success as Commanders' offensive coordinator has enhanced his prospects

BY SAM FORTIER

After the NFL regular season ends Sunday night, teams around the league will dive into the hiring market — and for the first time in nearly a decade, the Washington Commanders will have a high-profile head-coaching target in offensive coordinator Kliff Kingsbury, whose unit has been one of the league's best.

Kingsbury said Thursday he wants to be a head coach again "at some point" but declined to comment on whether he plans to interview this hiring cycle.

"We'll see how everything plays out, but I'm very happy here," he said. "This has been an awesome, awesome place and has really helped me rekindle my love for the

sport."

By NFL rules, teams can request to interview Kingsbury starting Jan. 6 but cannot actually interview him until three days after the Commanders' opening-round playoff game. The interview must be conducted virtually by the end of the divisional round Jan. 19, and if the Commanders (11-5) are still in the postseason, it cannot last more than three hours.

Kingsbury believes he has grown since his first stint as an NFL coach with the Arizona Cardinals, where he went 28-37 from 2019 through 2022.

"I didn't know what I didn't know," Kingsbury said, reflecting on his time with the Cardinals. "Coming from college, I had bounced around on teams as a player but not as a coach on any level. To come in there, I don't think I set the foundation the way I would do it after watching

SEE COMMANDERS ON D3

**Commanders at Cowboys**  
Sunday, 1 p.m., Fox

# THE DAY IN SPORTS

## PRO BASKETBALL

### Pistons' Ivey undergoes surgery on his left leg

Detroit Pistons guard **Jaden Ivey** had surgery on his left leg, a day after he broke his fibula in a collision during a win over the Orlando Magic.

The Pistons said Thursday that Ivey will be reevaluated in four weeks.

"I promise to come back even better," Ivey wrote in a social media post. "The recovery starts now #DetroitBasketball..."

**Tyrese Haliburton** scored 33 points and handed out 15 assists, **Myles Turner** added 21 points, and the Indiana Pacers rolled past the host Miami Heat, 128-115...

**Jayson Tatum** had 33 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, and the Boston Celtics beat the Minnesota Timberwolves, 118-115, in Minneapolis.

## HOCKEY

### Colorado's Nichushkin declared 'day-to-day'

The Colorado Avalanche will be without playmaking forward **Valeri Nichushkin** for an indefinite amount of time because of a lower-body injury.

Coach **Jared Bednar** said after morning practice that he would classify Nichushkin as "day-to-day"...

Minnesota Wild captain **Jared Spurgeon** is expected to miss two to three weeks with an apparent right leg injury after he was slew-footed this week by Nashville's **Zachary L'Heureux**, who was suspended three games for his actions...

**Mika Zibanejad** and **Brett Berard** scored in the first period and **Jonathan Quick** made 32 saves as the New York Rangers beat the visiting Boston Bruins, 2-1, to snap a four-game losing streak...

**Bobby McMan** scored twice, including the tiebreaking goal late in the third period, and the visiting Toronto Maple Leafs beat the New York Islanders, 2-1, in Elmont...

Boston College teammates **James Hagens** and **Ryan Leonard** each scored twice, and the defending champion United States routed Switzerland, 7-2, in the world junior hockey quarterfinals in Ottawa.

Boston University's **Brandon Svoboda**, Notre Dame's **Danny Nelson** and Denver's **Zev Buium** also scored for the Group A champion United States.

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

### Virginia women topple Wake Forest at home

**Kymora Johnson** scored 16 points, dished out eight assists and collected seven rebounds to lead the Virginia women's team (9-6, 1-2 ACC) to a 69-46 win over Wake Forest (7-6, 0-2) in Charlottesville...

All five starters scored in double digits for Virginia Tech, but the Hokies (9-4, 0-2 ACC) lost to visiting Florida State (12-2, 2-0) in Blacksburg.

**Rose Micheaux** scored 16 points and added 14 rebounds for Virginia Tech...

**Paula Suarez** led George Mason (11-2, 1-1 Atlantic 10) with 18 points, but the Patriots lost to St. Joseph's (11-2, 2-0), 61-55, at EagleBank Arena...

Navy (9-3, 1-0 Patriot League) defeated American (0-12, 0-1),



SARAH STIER/GETTY IMAGES

### Chipping away

Patrick Cantlay plays a shot on the fifth hole Thursday during the Sentry at Kapalua's Plantation Course in Hawaii.

## SPOTLIGHT: NBA

### Antetokounmpo, Jokic lead all-star voting

BY BEN GOLLIVER

Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo and Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic led their respective conferences in the first round of the NBA's all-star fan voting returns, which the league released Thursday.

Antetokounmpo, an eight-time all-star who was last year's overall leading vote-getter, topped the polls again with approximately 1.71 million votes since balloting opened Dec. 19. Jokic, a six-time selection, earned roughly 1.42 million votes to lead all Western Conference players. The other top five vote-getters were: Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (1.38 million), Phoenix Suns forward Kevin Durant (1.26 million) and Los Angeles

Lakers forward LeBron James (1.16 million).

In addition to Antetokounmpo and Tatum, New York Knicks center Karl-Anthony Towns, Charlotte Hornets guard LaMelo Ball (947,000) and Cleveland Cavaliers guard Donovan Mitchell (718,000) are on track to be starters from the East's fan vote. Jokic, Durant, James, Oklahoma City Thunder guard Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (1.05 million) and Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic (870,000) are on track to be starters from the West's fan vote.

For the first time, this year's All-Star Game will feature a tournament format with three teams of eight all-stars and a fourth team of players selected to the Rising Stars Challenge, an event for first- and second-year standouts. The 10 play-

ers selected as all-star starters during a voting process that includes fans, media members and players will be distributed among the three all-star teams, which will be coached by TNT commentators Charles Barkley, Shaquille O'Neal and Kenny Smith.

In the East's fan vote, Knicks guard Jalen Brunson (477,000) and Bucks guard Damian Lillard (704,000) have strong cases to start over Ball, who has missed 10 games this season because of injury. Ball's Hornets are 14th in the East standings with a 7-25 record.

Possible West snubs include Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (810,000), Lakers center Anthony Davis (999,000) and San Antonio Spurs center Victor Wembanyama (928,000).

## TELEVISION AND RADIO

### NBA

8 p.m. **Washington at New Orleans** » Monumental Sports Network, WTEM (980 AM)  
8 p.m. **New York at Oklahoma City** » NBA TV  
10:30 p.m. **Atlanta at Los Angeles Lakers** » NBA TV

### NHL

7 p.m. **Pittsburgh at Florida** » NHL Network

### COLLEGE FOOTBALL

4 p.m. **First Responder Bowl: North Texas vs. Texas State** » ESPN  
7:30 p.m. **Mayo Bowl: Minnesota vs. Virginia Tech** » ESPN, WJFK (106.7 FM)

### MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

6 p.m. **Akron at Bowling Green** » CBS Sports Network  
7 p.m. **Wichita State at Temple** » ESPN2  
7 p.m. **Iowa at Wisconsin** » Fox Sports 1  
8 p.m. **Xavier at Georgetown** » CBS Sports Network, WDCH (99.1 FM)  
8 p.m. **Michigan State at Ohio State** » WTG (Ch. 5), WBFF (Ch. 45)  
9 p.m. **St. Joseph's at Saint Louis** » ESPN2  
9 p.m. **Creighton at Marquette** » Fox Sports 1  
11 p.m. **Nevada at New Mexico** » Fox Sports 1

### GOLF

6 p.m. **PGA Tour: Sentry, second round** » Golf Channel

### SOCER

2:45 p.m. **French Ligue 1: Rennes at Nice** » BeIN Sports

### TENNIS

5 a.m. **United Cup, quarterfinals; ATP/WTA: Brisbane International, semifinals; ATP: Hong Kong Open, quarterfinals; WTA: Auckland Open, semifinals** » Tennis Channel  
6:30 p.m. **United Cup, semifinals; ATP/WTA: Brisbane International, final; ATP: Hong Kong Open, semifinals; WTA: Auckland Open, final** » Tennis Channel

### WOMEN'S COLLEGE GYMNASTICS

7:30 p.m. **Iowa State vs. LSU** » SEC Network

### MEN'S COLLEGE HOCKEY

5 p.m. **Michigan vs. Ohio State** » Big Ten Network  
6 p.m. **Denver at Maine** » ESPN2  
8:30 p.m. **Penn State vs. Notre Dame** » Big Ten Network

## Wild gets the upper hand in shootout over Capitals

### CAPITALS FROM D1

rebound at the front of the net. The rebound didn't come off Fleury; it came off Wilson's own body after he was hit with a point shot from defenseman Rasmus Sandin, then corralled it to tuck it past Fleury.

But just 65 seconds later, Ryan Hartman evened things up for Minnesota (24-11-4) with a tip on a shot from Zach Bogosian — the second time in the past three games that the Capitals have allowed a quick goal after they scored one of their own.

Bogosian then took a penalty late in the first period, a hook on Washington center Dylan Strome, which gave the Capitals a chance to take the lead heading into the intermission. Instead, Lindgren turned the puck over behind his own net while being pressured by Yakov Trenin, and Trenin came around the net to score a go-ahead shorthanded goal.

Defenseman Martin Feher-

vary, who left Tuesday's game against the Boston Bruins early after being hit across the face by an errant stick from Wilson, was hit high again in the second period Thursday — this time by an opponent, earning Washington a four-minute power play after Marat Khusnutdinov broke one of Fehervary's teeth with a high stick.

Just over a minute into the extended man advantage, Ovechkin fired home a shot from the top of the slot that tied the game at 2.

Ovechkin has three goals in four games since he returned from a broken fibula that caused him to miss 16 games.

"For him to get one on the power play tonight, it was a big goal, a really big goal," Washington Coach Spencer Carbery said. "We didn't have a lot going. We needed some momentum from that four-minute power play. There wasn't a lot going on, and the next thing you know, he sort of steps off the wall, and it got the building alive."



SCOTT TAETSCH/GETTY IMAGES

The Capitals held the lead in the third period Thursday night until Minnesota center Marco Rossi scored the equalizer with 8:41 left.

After several high-pressure offensive shifts in a row for Washington early in the third period, Fehervary found a lane from the top of the left circle early in the third period to score the go-ahead goal for the Capitals — and his first goal of the season.

Center Pierre-Luc Dubois pro-

vided the assist after defenseman Matt Roy won a puck battle along the goal line and fed it to Dubois in the right circle. Dubois found Fehervary across the ice, and Fehervary stepped into a wrister that cleanly beat Fleury.

With just under nine minutes left to play, Wilson thought he had extended Washington's lead with his second goal of the night.

The call on the ice was no goal because Wilson put the puck into

the net with his stick above the crossbar, and the ruling was upheld after a brief review.

Fifteen seconds later, the Wild beat Lindgren off the rush to tie the game for a third time. Lindgren stopped Marco Rossi's first shot, but Rossi followed up his own rebound for an equalizer with 8:41 left in the third period.

"Those are important shifts, no question. Shifts after goals, momentum shifts that we remind our guys, and our guys know those are big shifts," Carbery said.

"Usually, I'll deploy a certain line in some of those circumstances to try to make sure that shift's looked after. Unfortunately, a couple of those shifts didn't go our way tonight, with a few mistakes that end up costing us."

Defenseman Jakob Chychrun, in his 500th NHL game, hit the right post with a one-timer from just inside the blue line with 3:28 remaining. After the puck left the zone, Fleury took his glove off and patted the post in thanks.

Rossi's goal was enough to force overtime, and in the extra period, winger Aliaksei Protas missed wide on two chances for the Capitals. Minnesota's best chance came from Matt Boldy after he battled Dubois down the slot; the red light briefly went on

66-59, at Bender Arena. ...

**Mary-Anna Asare** led VCU (7-7, 1-1 Atlantic 10) with 37 points as the Rams beat Duquesne (9-4, 0-2), 65-63, in Richmond. ...

Visiting James Madison (10-4, 2-0 Sun Belt) beat Louisiana (6-6, 1-1), 68-63, in Lafayette. ...

Richmond (10-5, 1-1 Atlantic 10) fell to Fordham (7-6, 1-1), 80-78, in New York. ...

**Aidan Kehoe**'s 20 points helped the Navy men's team defeat American, 81-58, at Alumni Hall.

Kehoe added 11 rebounds for the Midshipmen (4-10, 1-0 Patriot League). **Donovan Draper** scored 17 points and added 11 rebounds and eight assists.

**Colin Smalls** finished with 18 points for the Eagles (6-8, 0-1). **Matt Rogers** added 12 points and eight rebounds for American. **Greg Jones** finished with nine points. ...

**Mark Freeman** led James Madison (8-6, 1-1 Sun Belt) with 30 points to guide the Dukes past Southern Mississippi (6-8, 1-1), 83-72, in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

## GOLF

### In PGA opener, Hoge rides wave to the front

**Tom Hoge** grew up in North Dakota and found the ideal vibe for Kapalua, Hawaii, keeping expectations low and riding the momentum of good golf on his way to a 9-under-par 64 to take a one-shot lead at the Sentry in the PGA Tour season opener at Kapalua's Plantation Course.

**Hideki Matsuyama** tried out a new putter — he saw someone else use it and figured it would work for him — and he had a birdie-eagle-birdie stretch on the back nine that carried him to a 65 and was one back along with beefed-up **Will Zalatoris**.

### MISC.

### Crimson Tide's Milroe declares for NFL draft

Alabama quarterback **Jalen Milroe** is entering the NFL draft after a disappointing finish to his second season as starter.

Milroe announced his decision to skip his final season on social media two days after the Crimson Tide fell to Michigan, 19-13, in the ReliaQuest Bowl. ...

The Philadelphia Union named **Bradley Carnell** as the fourth coach in the MLS team's history.

The 47-year-old Carnell spent two seasons as manager of St. Louis City SC and was the team's inaugural coach. ...

**Christian Pulisic** appears to be healthy again following injuries to his calf and ankle and could return for AC Milan against Juventus in the Italian Super Cup semifinals Friday.

The U.S. international has been out since he tore a muscle in his right calf nearly a month ago. Then he had a minor ankle issue. ...

**Mikaela Shiffrin** is back in the gym and aiming to be on snow "in the next week or so," the American skiing star said more than a month after suffering a deep puncture wound in her hip area.

The serious injury occurred during a during a crash Nov. 30 in Killington, Vermont. Shiffrin was nearing the finish of her second run of the giant slalom, chasing a record-extending 100th World Cup win, when she lost an edge and slid into a gate, flipping head over skis.

— From news services

## CAPITALS' NEXT THREE

### vs. New York Rangers

Saturday Noon ABC

### at Buffalo Sabres

Monday 7:30 Monumental

### vs. Vancouver Canucks

Wednesday 7:30 Monumental 2

## Daniels and McLaurin are headed to Pro Bowl

QB and wideout honored during the Commanders' best season in decades

BY NICKI JHABVALA

In yet another acknowledgment of the Washington Commanders' revival, two of their stars were voted to the 2025 Pro Bowl Games.

Rookie quarterback Jayden Daniels and veteran wide receiver Terry McLaurin were voted as primary selections for the NFC roster, the NFL announced Thursday, while 11 other Commanders were selected as alternates.

Linebacker Bobby Wagner, long snapper Tyler Ott and special teamer Nick Bellore are first alternates; center Tyler Biadasz, outside linebacker Frankie Luvu and punter Tress Way are second alternates; kick returner Austin Ekeluer, outside linebacker Dante Fowler Jr. and special teamer Jeremy Reaves are third alternates; and safety Jeremy Chinm and tight end Zach Ertz are fifth alternates.

The selections of Daniels and McLaurin give Washington a presence in the league's all-star event after the team had no representatives following last season's 4-13 finish. Daniels is the fourth rookie quarterback since 1970 to be selected to the initial Pro Bowl roster, along with Robert Griffin III (2012), Dan Marino (1983) and Dak Prescott (2016). It's the second Pro Bowl honor for McLaurin, who also was chosen in 2022.

General Manager Adam Peters and Coach Dan Quinn informed Daniels and McLaurin of their selections Wednesday, then Quinn announced it to the team during its 9 a.m. meeting Thursday.

This is the first time Washington has had two offensive players get Pro Bowl nods since tackle Trent Williams and guard Brandon Scherff were picked in 2017. With Daniels and McLaurin leading the franchise to its first 11-win season since it went 14-2 in 1991, it's fitting they're the first quarterback-wideout duo to go to the Pro

Bowl for Washington since Mark Rypien and Gary Clark that year.

"That's history," McLaurin said. "It's a blessing to be a part of that, and it's a testament to the team that we've built this year. [Daniels] and I obviously get a lot of the attention because of the quarterback-receiver relationship, but it's been fun building the identity of the team this year, and we've all had a hand in it."

The NFL no longer holds a traditional Pro Bowl game but instead has skills challenges featuring the players, culminating in a flag football competition Feb. 2 in Orlando. Rosters are determined by a consensus of votes from fans, players and coaches. Washington had 15 players finish among the top 10 at their positions in fan voting, including Daniels, who had the third-most votes (242,352) among all players in the league.

Just as notable: The Commanders, whose fan base had dwindled over the years because of the team's lagging play and off-field issues, received the third-most fan votes, a clear sign of the franchise's return to relevance.

For Daniels, the honor is one of multiple accolades in his young career. He has been voted the NFL's rookie of the week a record 11 times and was also voted the NFC's offensive player of the week after what may be remembered as his coming-out party, a Week 3 win in Cincinnati. Daniels threw two touchdown passes, rushed for one and completed 91.3 percent of his throws in a thrilling Monday night victory over the Bengals.

The 24-year-old is the first Washington rookie named to the Pro Bowl since defensive end Chase Young in 2020 and the first offensive rookie to receive the honor for Washington since Griffin in 2012.

Entering Week 18, Daniels has passed for 3,530 yards and 25 touchdowns, leads all quarterbacks with 864 rushing yards and has built a reputation as one of the more clutch players in the league. He leads the NFL with six touchdowns in the final two minutes of regulation and overtime.

"It would be a blessing," Dan-



GEOFF BURKE/IMAGN IMAGES

Rookie Jayden Daniels, left, and veteran Terry McLaurin lead one of the NFL's most-potent offenses.

iels said Wednesday when asked about earning a Pro Bowl selection. "It's not really something that I really looked too into, like, 'Oh, I want to be a Pro Bowler,' or stuff like that. But if I'm announced as one, it'll be a blessing."

More significant for Washington is the prospect that finally — finally — Daniels appears to be its answer at quarterback. The franchise cycled through 27 other starting quarterbacks since the turn of the century, and only two started full consecutive seasons: Jason Campbell (2008-09) and Kirk Cousins (2015-17). Neither produced double-digit wins in a season.

"You know with him; he's going to give you an opportunity to make a play on the ball," McLaurin said of Daniels. "He's extremely accurate, and he plays with a lot of confidence. I think that rubs off on all of us."

If anyone has felt the effects of the quarterback turnover in Washington over the years, it's McLaurin, who played with 10 starters before Daniels was drafted with the second pick in April. McLaurin topped 1,000 receiving yards for four consecutive seasons despite the carousel of quarterbacks, but his production has taken off alongside Daniels.

Not only has McLaurin caught 74 passes and notched his fifth consecutive 1,000-yard season (1,034 yards entering the finale), he's also tied for second in the NFL with 12 touchdown receptions — which ties the single-season franchise record. Only two other NFC receivers, Detroit's Amon-Ra St. Brown and Minnesota's Justin Jefferson, have at least 70 catches and 10 or more touchdowns this season.

McLaurin's second Pro Bowl selection puts him in elite company. Only four other Washington wide receivers have had multiple Pro Bowl selections: Clark (1986-87, 1990-91), Art Monk (1984-86), Charlie Brown (1982-83) and Charley Taylor (1966-67, 1972-75).

"They tried to say the fan base was dead or something like that, but it's alive and well," McLaurin said Thursday. "So it's cool to be a part of this organization where we're winning a lot of games and everybody's having success from that. Honestly, at the end of the day though, it'd be a lot better to play in that Super Bowl. Nonetheless it's a great honor."

## Commanders' Kingsbury could become a hot coaching candidate

COMMANDERS FROM D1

[Commanders Coach Dan Quinn] and how he's set the foundation from Day 1 — and these are the standards, and this is what we won't compromise, and this is what we're going to be. I definitely could've done a better job of that, and once you don't lay it out like that, it's hard to put it back in. It's hard to reset it, and I think that's where he's done such a great job of. This is what we're going to be from Day 1. There was no ifs, ands or buts, and the guys bought in, and he's led an incredible way by doing that."

The Chicago Bears, New Orleans Saints and New York Jets already have openings, and more teams are expected to be in the market by early next week. Teams with potential openings include the Las Vegas Raiders, Jacksonville Jaguars, Tennessee Titans, Cleveland Browns, Dallas Cowboys, New England Patriots and the New York Giants. Last off-season, there were eight openings, and in 2023 there were five.

Other candidates could include Detroit Lions offensive coordinator Ben Johnson, former Titans coach Mike Vrabel, North Carolina Coach Bill Belichick and Minnesota Vikings defensive coordinator Brian Flores.

For the Commanders, who have their first 11-win season in more than three decades, a coach or executive potentially getting poached is another sign of organizational improvement. It hasn't happened since offensive coordinator Sean McVay left after the 2016 season to coach the Los Angeles Rams, a potential first-round playoff opponent for Washington.

Kingsbury isn't the only member of Quinn's staff who could receive interest elsewhere: other targets for elevated positions include assistant head coach/offensive pass game coordinator Brian Johnson and quarterbacks coach Tavita Pritchard. In addition, assistant general manager Lance Newmark could garner interest.

Kingsbury has been linked to Chicago because he helped coach Bears quarterback Caleb Williams

at Southern California in 2023.

During a news conference Wednesday, Williams outlined what he values most is a coach who challenges him and the team, as well as "a man of his word," "a disciplined coach" and "a guy that wants to win."

A reporter asked what Williams thought of Kingsbury as a candidate.

"I've been around Kliff," Williams replied. "I know what type of guy he is. I know that he loves football. I know that he wants to win. He's a competitor. And so, in many different aspects that I was just speaking about, I've been around him. So I would say that being around him, knowing him, asking him questions and things like that, I think, obviously, if he was here I'd probably have more to say. But I think he fits a bunch of those qualities that I said."

In September, Kingsbury deflected questions about whether he wanted another head coaching job because he felt it was important not to look ahead, which he felt sometimes got him in trouble

in Arizona. "It doesn't matter what happens next," he said.

Some people around the NFL believed Kingsbury most wanted to work with quarterbacks and win and that an MVP for one of his players or a Super Bowl appearance might be enough to make everyone forget his lackluster endings at Texas Tech, which he coached from 2013 to 2018, and with the Cardinals.

But this past fall, a friend of Kingsbury's said "achieving his full potential as head coach will be what gives him true happiness."

If Kingsbury left, it would present a challenge to the development of Jayden Daniels. The quarterback has excelled as a rookie, earning a Pro Bowl nod Thursday, and has been given the opportunity to provide input in the game plan and freedom at the line of scrimmage. The Commanders' flexible, up-tempo offense ranks fifth in the NFL in points per game (28.9), fourth in yards per game (376.0), fourth in total expected points added (115.2) and sixth in success rate (46.1 percent).

Washington has internal options to replace Kingsbury, including Brian Johnson and run game coordinator/running backs coach Anthony Lynn, but it would be hard to fully replicate him. Plus, Daniels is in sync with Kingsbury's aggressiveness.

"For Kliff and me, we get fourth-down opportunities, we want to go for it," Daniels said. "Sometimes I know what [Quinn] wants, but I know, in the back of my mind, I want to go for it. I know Kliff wants to go for it."

If Kingsbury stays, the Commanders can hope Daniels will make a second-year leap like he did at LSU. In March, Daniels called 2023 his "first true offseason" in college because he wasn't learning a new playbook or dealing with the pandemic. He felt it allowed him to focus on football, build chemistry with his receivers and rocket onto the national stage during a senior season that culminated with a Heisman Trophy.

The question is whether he will get that same chance with Kingsbury.

## NFL NOTES

### Rivera completes interview with Jets

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The New York Jets interviewed former Washington and Carolina coach Ron Rivera on Thursday, the first known coaching candidate to meet with the team.

ESPN analyst and former NFL safety Louis Riddick also interviewed with the team for its general manager vacancy. Riddick, who previously worked in the front offices of Washington and Philadelphia, is the fourth known GM candidate to meet with the Jets.

Rivera went 26-40-1 during a four-year stint with the Commanders, leading Washington to the playoffs during his first season with the team in 2020. He was fired last January after a 4-13 season.

Rivera, who turns 63 next Tuesday, is the only coach in NFL history to have led teams with losing records to the playoffs more than once, having done so with Carolina (7-8-1) in 2014 and Washington (7-9) in 2020.

He led the Panthers to the postseason seven times during his tenure in Carolina from 2011 to 2019, including a Super Bowl appearance in the 2015 season when the team went 15-1 in the regular season and eventually lost to Seattle in the title game.

Nicknamed "Riverboat Ron" for his aggressive decisions on the field, Rivera has a career record of 102-103-2.

The Jets fired coach Robert Saleh on Oct. 7 and have gone 2-9 under interim coach Jeff Ulbrich. Former Jets coach Rex Ryan is also among those expected to interview with the team.

• **BROWNS:** Bailey Zappe will be quarterback No. 4 and No. 40 for Cleveland.

He was selected by Coach Kevin Stefanski to start Saturday's season finale at Baltimore, making him the fourth quarterback to start this season and the 40th since the Browns returned to the NFL as an expansion team in 1999.

Zappe was signed off the Kansas City Chiefs' practice squad in October after Deshaun Watson ruptured his Achilles' tendon. The 25-year-old will be making his ninth career start — he is 4-4 — after he started eight games for the New England Patriots.

• **MISC.:** Nine Ravens, including two-time NFL MVP Lamar Jackson and Derrick Henry, were selected for the Pro Bowl Games.

The Detroit Lions are next with seven players. The Minnesota Vikings and Philadelphia Eagles have six players each on the NFC roster.

Patrick Mahomes wasn't selected to the AFC roster for the first time since he became Kansas City's starting quarterback in his second season. Mahomes, a three-time Super Bowl MVP and six-time Pro Bowl pick, wasn't among five Chiefs chosen. Teammate Travis Kelce made it for the 10th time.

Detroit's Jared Goff is the NFC's starting quarterback and Minnesota's Sam Darnold also made the team. The AFC's starting quarterback is Buffalo's Josh Allen. Jackson and Cincinnati's Joe Burrow are the backups.

## Injury behind him, Williams is eager to take on a bigger workload with Nats

BY SPENCER NUSBAUM

Trevor Williams was brought back to Washington to answer some questions, but his return prompts a few of its own.

Williams, who returned to the Nationals on a two-year, \$14 million contract Monday, met with reporters over Zoom on Thursday and made it clear that he expects to slot in as a starter. Yet it remains uncertain how long the 32-year-old might stick in the rotation.

In 2024, he cut back usage of his fastball, which, coupled with stellar command and a deceptive arsenal, guided him to a 2.03 ERA across 13 starts. Yet it's not clear whether that will still work for Williams, who plans to make some (unrevealed) changes heading into next season.

And then there's the right-hander's injury history. A right flexor muscle strain kept Williams out from late May to mid-September. The Nationals and their fans can only hope he can remain healthy next season. Yet he is as confident as any pitcher can be that those problems are in the past.

"Unfortunately, the injury happened, but it made me open my eyes to, like, 'Maybe I wasn't strong enough in certain positions. Maybe my delivery wasn't as clean as it could have been,'" Williams said. "Now, after the injury and what I now kind of understand why I got injured, I'm doing everything that I can to let that not happen again."

Last year, Manager Dave Martinez generally pulled Williams after around five innings and 80 pitches. Now? With the caveat that he will do whatever Martinez thinks is best: "I believe and I'm confident enough that I can get to that 100-pitch mark every time I take the ball," Williams said. "Now I think I'm going to be in a stronger position now to be able to do that."

Of course, Washington cannot guarantee a starter will remain healthy. It cannot promise a pitcher will take a step in the right direction. What it can do — and has done with the return of Williams and the addition of Michael Soroka — is give itself more options if pitching injuries pile up.

The Nationals — who have fared better on pitching health



Trevor Williams, who made 13 starts in 2024 but missed time with a flexor strain, has returned to the Nationals on a two-year deal.

over the past two years than most — still saw it play out last season. Entering spring training, it appeared that only one spot was open in the rotation, which Williams won over Zach Davies. Then, two starts in, Josiah Gray went down for the year. In early June, Williams hit the injured list.

That opened spots for Mitchell Parker and DJ Herz.

Now, with Williams, Mackenzie Gore, Jake Irvin and Soroka holding court as the most experienced arms, Herz and Parker probably will compete for the final spot.

With the propensity for inju-

ries and the reality that poor performance can plague any pitcher, Washington's Plan B's are better today than they were a year ago. Herz vs. Parker would be a more encouraging version of Williams vs. Davies. Cade Cavalli is likely to begin his year in the minor leagues, but he has upside as a former top-100 prospect coming off a lengthy Tommy John rehab and is expected to pitch in the big leagues on an innings restriction in 2025.

The Nationals appear unlikely to thrust Class AAA farmhands Brad Lord, Jackson Rutledge and Tyler Stuart into big league roles early on, but those pitchers could presumably find themselves in the same spots Parker and Herz did last year.

Even still, if Williams or Soroka struggle, both have experience in the bullpen for one of the aforementioned arms to step in. Gray is unlikely to become available until very late in the season, though there remains a possibility he could make some starts at the end of the year.

And so until spring training, a handful of knowns and unknowns linger. Perhaps the surest

bet is that Williams will remain a veteran presence on a 40-man roster that has just four players over 30.

"There's no denying the growth that we've made in the last two years," Williams said. "I'm thankful that [Martinez and General Manager Mike Rizzo] trust me in this spot and in this role to help guys to get to the best of their ability, and I'm really excited about what these next two years are going to look like."

As for whether he will look different in 2025, coming off an injury? After pitching to a 5.55 ERA in 2023, Williams reinvented himself. For now, he will keep the look of his next reinvention under wraps.

"I'm not going to give away too much in my hand, right? But it's pitch design and pitch usages. I think there's some definite low-hanging fruit with my repertoire, what I can supplement to my pitching plans," Williams said. "But I'm thankful that we can just continue that conversation, instead of severing ties with the Nats and implementing that somewhere else and seeing what we can do."

## Defense provides a boost in Wizards' modest surge

BY VARUN SHANKAR

After a 3-21 start, the Washington Wizards have won three of their past seven games in what have been a competent couple of weeks.

Their jump from abhorrence to mediocrity is also evident in the underlying numbers. Over the past two weeks, Washington's offensive rating (points per 100 possessions) is ranked 17th in the NBA, and its defensive rating (points allowed per 100 possessions) is 16th, according to the analytics site Cleaning the Glass.

This week's five things include a deep dive into a distinctive win and a look at the approach of the Wizards' veterans to trade season.

(Stats are entering Thursday's games.)

### 1. An unusual win

Five of the Wizards' six wins came in games in which they shot at least 39 percent from the three-point arc. The lone exception was Dec. 26 against the Charlotte Hornets, when Washington shot just 31.8 from deep and won, 113-110, because of its defense — particularly late.

The Wizards went cold in the fourth quarter, shooting just 26.1 percent from the field, but kept the Hornets scoreless for more than three minutes, a stretch that set the stage for guard Jordan Poole's late heroics.

"Sometimes you got to find a way to get the job done. ... We made some really gritty plays, winning plays down the stretch," Wizards Coach Brian Keefe said the day after the game. "And our defense really carried the day for us."

A rewatch of the broadcast offered more insight:

**Hornets lead 106-102, 4:11 remaining:** Veteran guard Malcolm Brogdon and rookie center Alex Sarr contain Hornets star LaMelo Ball as his defender, Bilar Coulibaly, trails behind after weaving around a screen by Miles Bridges.

Ball passes to Bridges, who doesn't have a clean shot because Brogdon has recovered back into position. The Hornets forward runs a pick and roll with center Mark Williams. Washington switches, putting Sarr on Bridges. This is theoretically a mismatch — a center on a wing — and Bridges attacks it as one, isolating on the left side. But Sarr does well to stick with his mark and force a missed layup.

**Hornets lead 106-102, 3:28 remaining:** Ball gets a screen from Williams and drives forward, but Sarr and rookie guard Bub Carrington cut him off and force him to pick up his dribble. An illegal screen ends the possession.

**Hornets lead 106-105, 2:50 remaining:** Ball gets two screens

to his right from Brandon Miller and Williams. Both Brogdon and Carrington go to Ball and leave Miller open. But Brogdon races over to Miller at the three-point line, where he is shooting 35.2 percent on 11 attempts per game. The Hornets forward pump-fakes this time.

Brogdon's aggressive closeout leaves Miller a driving lane. Carrington comes over to cut it off, with Sarr waiting behind. Miller whips a pass to Williams in the dunker spot. Sarr, who at points this season has fouled opponents by jumping too early, remains patient.

The Charlotte center bumps Sarr, who remains in position and ultimately blocks Williams as he goes for a reverse layup. The rejection triggers Washington's transition attack, a fast-break possession ending in a Carrington bucket to give Washington the lead.

### 2. Vets on trade discussions

The Wizards could move on from one or both of Brogdon and center Jonas Valanciunas by the Feb. 6 trade deadline. The 32-year-olds don't fit neatly into Washington's long-term framework and could fetch future-facing returns.

Brogdon, who has been traded four times in his career (one was a sign-and-trade), gave a thoughtful answer when asked how he approaches rumors.

"In the past, I've really worried about it and wondered what was going to happen with me, what was going to happen with the team, around the league," he said after a late-December practice. "Now I don't pay it any attention. If moves are made with me ... it was destined to be. But the best thing you can do as a player is not pay attention to it and focus on your team."

Valanciunas expressed a similar sentiment — albeit in fewer words.

"I don't have social media," he said.

### 3. Rookie George struggles

Kyshawn George is doing a lot well. He's above the 50th percentile among wings in the following statistics, per Cleaning the Glass: assist percentage (rate of teammates' shots he got an assist on), block percentage and defensive rebounding percentage.

But George's shooting has been horrible. He is making 33.8 percent of his field goals and just 25.2 percent of his threes — surprisingly low numbers for a player who shot 40.8 percent on threes in one season at the University of Miami.

Poole, speaking after Wednesday's win over the Chicago Bulls, said he talks to George often about the struggles.

"Kyshawn is an extremely high-level shooter, and I continuously



Alex Sarr contested Hornets guard LaMelo Ball's shot last week for the Wizards, who have posted three wins in their past seven games.

tell [the rookies] that I only shot 27 percent from three my first year," he said. "I'm talking, couldn't throw a rock into the ocean ... It just takes time. It took me an entire year to just adjust to the line, adjust to the games, adjust to the physicality. We're guarding, we're running, we're playing 82 games, we're traveling, so it's more [strain] on the body."

George seems to have internalized the need for patience.

"It's our will to come and dominate at first," he said in late December. "But we know we're going to face adversity. It's not going to be easy."

Keefe, when asked whether George could spend time in the G League because of the shooting struggles, dismissed the idea.

### 4. Pool praises fans

After the Dec. 26 win over Charlotte, Poole praised the Capital One Arena crowd. He said it got "the loudest I've heard since I've been here" in the fourth quarter.

"I want to say that they're some of the best fans in the league," he said. "Obviously, as a team, we got to give them something to cheer about. But whenever ... it's a competitive game, they normally find a way to stand up, get involved."

"... [With] my previous employer [the Golden State Warriors], I have a good pretty good experience just feeding off the crowd, the energy, the momentum, and we really felt that. Especially being a young team, guys not being experienced when it comes to moments like that yet ... there was a moment, I think, with about two minutes [left] where everybody was saying 'Defense,' and we need that."

Poole has often looked to en-

### WIZARDS' NEXT THREE

#### at New Orleans Pelicans

Friday 8 Monumental

#### vs. New Orleans Pelicans

Sunday 6 Monumental

#### vs. Houston Rockets

Tuesday 7 Monumental

Radio: WTEM (980 AM)

gage the fans during his media appearances and with on-court celebrations.

"A lot of people want to come in and wear nice outfits and go on dates and stuff," he said Dec. 7 after Washington beat the Denver Nuggets to snap a 16-game losing streak. "But they got to stand up."

Washington is 25th out of 30 teams in average home attendance this year.

#### 5. And-ones

Why do teams so frequently go with an isolation-heavy offensive approach near the end of games? It is generally an effort to avoid turnovers and keep the game simple, according to Keefe. "Teams probably try to focus on looking at a certain matchup they might attack," he said. ...

A notable indication of Oklahoma City's basketball culture from Washington's Dec. 23 matchup: Thunder fans were on their feet and roaring as Jaylin Williams, a 2022 second-round pick who is averaging under five points per game for his career, made his season debut after a right hamstring strain. ...

Question for the next two weeks: Is Sarr's hot shooting (42 percent from three over the past 15 games) real?

## No. 8 Maryland trounces Rutgers, improves to 13-0

### MARYLAND FROM D1

and a couple of other Scarlet Knights.

When the final buzzer sounded, the No. 8 Terrapins' sizzling start was very much still cooking as they improved to 13-0 overall and 3-0 in the Big Ten. The best start in program history is an 18-0 run to open to the 2006-07 season.

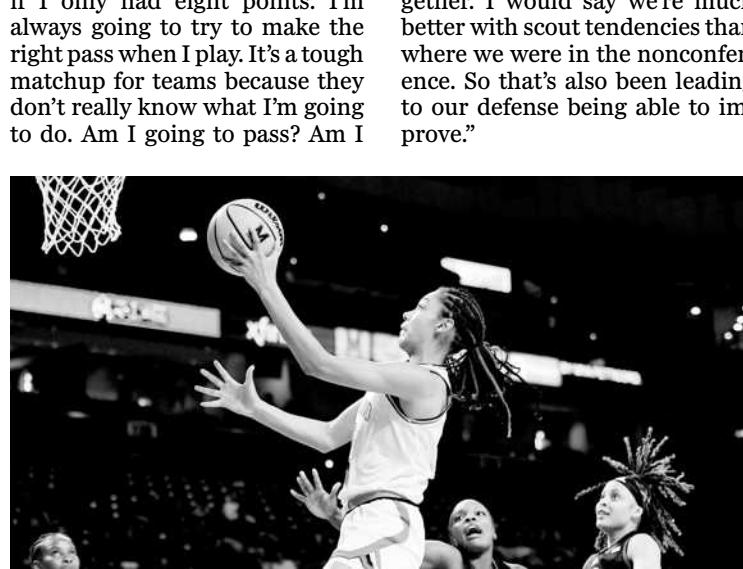
The low-key Smike dismissed the notion that playing Rutgers provided extra motivation, even if there were some chippy moments.

"I don't really think it was any different from any other game," Smike said. "Basketball is basketball. It doesn't matter the team. I'm still going to come out every game, play the same against any team. I don't think me playing Rutgers changed the way I came into the game or the mindset that I had."

The schedule will immediately pick up for the Terps with back-to-back games against ranked opponents ahead. Maryland hits the road to face No. 23 Iowa on Sunday before it hosts JuJu Watkins and No. 4 Southern California on Wednesday. That makes three ranked teams in four games after Maryland defeated No. 19 Michigan State on Sunday.

Shyanne Sellers, ranked second in the Big Ten in assists, showed off her scoring chops with a season-high 22 points to go along with eight rebounds and three assists. Smike added 13 points, four rebounds and five steals. She has scored in double figures in every game but the season opener. Allie Kubek was efficient off the bench with 17 points on 6-for-9 shooting. Saylor Poffenbarger, who began the day ranked fifth in the conference in rebounding, posted her fourth straight double-digit rebounding game and sixth in seven

even games with a game-high 11. "I try not to be selfish," Sellers said. "I'm never going to be upset if I only had eight points. I'm always going to try to make the right pass when I play. It's a tough matchup for teams because they don't really know what I'm going to do. Am I going to pass? Am I



Maryland freshman guard Ava McKennie drives to the basket against Rutgers' Chyna Cornwell, middle, and Mya Petticord, right.

### WEEKEND TV AND RADIO

3:30 p.m.	Wisconsin at Oregon	Big Ten Network
4 p.m.	Liberty at Middle Tennessee State	ESPN2
4 p.m.	Butler at Marquette	Fox Sports 1
<b>GOLF</b>		
2 p.m.	PGA Tour: Sentry, third round	WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11)
6 p.m.	PGA Tour: Sentry, third round	Golf Channel
<b>SOCER</b>		
7:30 a.m.	English Premier League: Newcastle United at Tottenham	USA Network
8 a.m.	French Ligue 2: Pau at Metz	BeIN Sports
9 a.m.	Italian Serie A: Empoli at Venezia	CBS Sports Network
10 a.m.	English Premier League: Everton at Bournemouth	USA Network
11 a.m.	French Ligue 1: Reims at Saint-Étienne	BeIN Sports
12:30 p.m.	English Premier League: Arsenal at Brighton	WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11)
1 p.m.	French Ligue 1: Nantes at Lille	BeIN Sports
3 p.m.	French Ligue 1: Montpellier at Lyon	BeIN Sports
<b>TENNIS</b>		
5 a.m.	United Cup, semifinals; ATP/WTA: Brisbane International, women's final; ATP: Hong Kong Open, semifinals; WTA: Auckland Open, semifinals	Tennis Channel
11 p.m.	WTA: Auckland Open, final	Tennis Channel
1:30 a.m.	United Cup, final; ATP/WTA: Brisbane International, men's final; ATP: Hong Kong Open, final	Tennis Channel
(Sunday)		
<b>PROFESSIONAL LACROSSE</b>		
10 p.m.	National Lacrosse League: Ottawa vs. San Diego	ESPN
<b>MEN'S COLLEGE HOCKEY</b>		
9 p.m.	Wisconsin vs. Michigan State	Big Ten Network
<b>WOMEN'S COLLEGE HOCKEY</b>		
5:30 p.m.	Ohio State vs. Wisconsin	Big Ten Network
<b>HOCKEY — IIHF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP, SEMIFINALS</b>		
3:30 p.m.	Sweden vs. Finland	NHL Network
7:30 p.m.	United States vs. Czechia	NHL Network
<b>SUNDAY</b>		
<b>NFL</b>		
1 p.m.	Washington at Dallas	WTTG (Ch. 5), WBFF (Ch. 45), WBIG (100.3 FM)
1 p.m.	New York Giants at Philadelphia	WUSA (Ch. 9), WJZ (Ch. 13)
1 p.m.	Buffalo at New England	WJZ (Ch. 13)
4:25 p.m.	Miami at New York Jets	WTTG (Ch. 5), WBFF (Ch. 45)
4:25 p.m.	Kansas City at Denver	WUSA (Ch. 9), WJZ (Ch. 13), WSBN (630 AM)
8:15 p.m.	Minnesota at Detroit	WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11), WJFK (106.7 FM)
<b>NBA</b>		
6 p.m.	New Orleans at Washington	Monumental Sports Network, WJFK (106.7 FM), WTEM (980 AM)
<b>NHL</b>		
3 p.m.	New York Rangers at Chicago	WJLA (Ch. 7), WMAR (Ch. 2)
<b>COLLEGE FOOTBALL</b>		
8 p.m.	Division III, championship game: Valdosta State vs. North Central	ESPN
<b>MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL</b>		
Noon	Indiana at Penn State	Big Ten Network
1 p.m.	Florida Atlantic at East Carolina	ESPN2
2 p.m.	Providence at Connecticut	WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11)
2 p.m.	Northwestern at Purdue	Big Ten Network
3 p.m.	Murray State at Drake	ESPN2
4 p.m.	Maryland at Oregon	Peacock, WTEM (980 AM)
4 p.m.	Illinois at Washington	Big Ten Network
5 p.m.	North Texas at Memphis	ESPN
<b>WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL</b>		
Noon	Pittsburgh at Duke	ACC Network
Noon	Georgia at Florida	SEC Network
Noon	Davidson at Saint Louis	CBS Sports Network
1 p.m.	Notre Dame at North Carolina	ESPN
2 p.m.	Stanford at Clemson	WDCW (Ch. 50), WNUV (Ch. 54)
2 p.m.	Syracuse at Florida State	ACC Network
2 p.m.	South Carolina at Mississippi State	SEC Network
2 p.m.	North Carolina A&T at Hampton	Monumental Sports Network
2 p.m.	Buffalo at Kent State	CBS Sports Network
3 p.m.	Oklahoma at Tennessee	ESPN
4 p.m.	Louisville at Wake Forest	ACC Network
4 p.m.	Auburn at LSU	SEC Network
6 p.m.	Maryland at Iowa	Big Ten Network
6 p.m.	California at SMU	ACC Network
6:30 p.m.	Utah at Iowa State	ESPN2
8 p.m.	Southern California at Rutgers	Big Ten Network
<b>GOLF</b>		
4 p.m.	PGA Tour: Sentry, final round	WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11)
6 p.m.	PGA Tour: Sentry, final round	Golf Channel
<b>SOCER</b>		
9 a.m.</td		

## Mistake-prone Terps are brought to heel by Huskies to open West Coast trip

**WASHINGTON 75,  
MARYLAND 69**

BY GENE WANG

SEATTLE — At roughly 3 p.m. on New Year's Eve, the Maryland men's basketball team boarded buses in College Park bound for BWI International Airport. Thus began its inaugural journey to the University of Washington, where the Terrapins resumed Big Ten competition Thursday night after they traversed three time zones and more than 2,800 miles.

The first stop on a two-game swing to the Pacific Northwest ended with an error-filled 75-69 loss at Alaska Airlines Arena during which Maryland misfired in

the closing minutes from the field and the free throw line. The Terps also wilted in that time at the defensive end, allowing Washington to get to the rim and leaving shooters open at the three-point arc.

Trailing 64-61 with less than three minutes remaining, Maryland allowed a long three-pointer to Huskies guard DJ Davis. The Terps trimmed the deficit to 67-65 with 1:31 to play on Jordan Geronimo's two-handed dunk off an inbounds pass, but Washington reeled off the next five points to remove any realistic comeback aspirations.

Maryland (11-3, 1-2) made just 2 of 11 from beyond the arc and 15 of 22 free throws in losing for the first time since Dec. 8 at Purdue. Senior forward Julian Reese led

the Terps with 22 points and eight rebounds, and fifth-year guard Selton Miguel added 12 points.

Great Osobor had game highs of 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Huskies (10-4, 1-2), who outrebounded Maryland 27-21 and overcame 13 turnovers.

A 9-2 run to open the second half capped by Reese's contested jumper grew Maryland's lead to 41-32 with 16:22 to play. In that time, Terps starting point guard Ja'Kobi Gillespie picked up his third personal foul but remained in the game after sitting out a lengthy portion of the first half.

The Huskies countered with a 10-1 surge to move ahead 45-44 when Vazoumana Diallo sank both ends of a one-and-one with 12:46 to go in the second half. Diallo was awarded the free

throws because of Gillespie's fourth foul while trailing the play and arriving late on a block attempt.

The junior transfer fouled out with 5:15 left in the second half after committing a third turnover that yielded two free throws for Davis, providing the Huskies with a 59-58 lead. Gillispie finished with a season-low one point and missed all six of his field goal attempts.

A late push gave the Terps their largest first-half lead at 33-25 courtesy of six straight points from reserve sophomore guard DeShawn Harris-Smith. But Maryland permitted the Huskies to draw within one possession in the final 90 seconds and entered the locker room with a 33-30 advantage.

Thursday's showdown with one of the four new West Coast members of the Big Ten following the latest round of conference expansion marked Maryland's first true road game in the Pacific time zone since Feb. 19, 1990, when the Terps overcame Southern Cal, 64-62.

The Terps got a taste of cross-country travel last season, defeating UCLA, 69-60, at Pauley Pavilion thanks to 37 points from since-departed point guard Jahmir Young. The trip also provided somewhat of a blueprint for their early-January odyssey that concludes Sunday with a matinee against No. 9 Oregon.

Such lulls were less common for Maryland in the first half against the Huskies, although early turnovers in stretches prevented the Terps from running consistent of

fence. There were defensive lapses too, including a late closeout at the three-point line that allowed guard Diallo a clean look.

The freshman made the field goal to give Washington a 21-19 lead with 7:45 to play in the half. Willard immediately called time-out and inserted a wave of substitutions. Entering for the Terps for the first time were forward Tafara Gapare and Young, both transfers who were part of an offseason roster overhaul.

The reserves provided a lift with crisp passing, getting the ball into the hands of Reese, who scored all the Terps' points in a 6-0 run for a 25-21 lead with 5:30 remaining in the first half.

**Maryland at Oregon**  
Sunday, 4 p.m., Peacock

## If Buckeyes win the CFP, do Wolverines get credit?

**On Football**

STEVEN GODFREY

Oregon, the previously undefeated No. 1 team in the nation, never stood a chance in the Rose Bowl. It's Michigan's fault.

The beatdown was certain and instantaneous. By the time the Ducks ran their 20th play of the game, on their fourth possession, Ohio State led by 17 points and scored another touchdown less than a minute later. By the time Oregon ran its second play across midfield, they were down by 34.

Ohio State's 41-21 win in a College Football Playoff quarterfinal on New Year's Day was an effortless extension of its 42-17 opening-round demolition of Tennessee on Dec. 22. The Buckeyes are both the hottest and best team still alive in the inaugural 12-team national championship tournament, a fact that is inseparable from an increasingly inexplicable loss to their hated rival to end the regular season.

Prognostication is a fool's errand, but the Buckeyes seem like the most complete team entering next week's semifinals. An Ohio State roster laden with NFL talent is playing the best football of its season. If the Buckeyes continue apace against Texas at the Cotton Bowl on Jan. 10 and then in the national championship game Jan. 20, their 13-10 loss at home to Michigan on Nov. 30 will become a rare moment in the history of college football — an end-of-season rivalry loss that

galvanized a program into a better, championship-winning form of itself in the postseason.

After every lightning-fast offensive drive, after every big play by freshman wide receiver Jeremiah Smith in the passing game, Ohio State fans wrestle with the question, "Why couldn't this happen against Michigan?" But a far more interesting — if potentially painful — reality exists: "Could Ohio State look this good without losing to Michigan?"

Just a month ago, Ryan Day was the most unpopular 66-10 coach in history, specifically because four of those 10 career losses came as consecutive defeats at the hands of Michigan. Even if impartial observers tossed the first three of those aside, this season's grossly mismanaged home loss to a rebuilding Wolverines program seemed inexplicable.

This is where things get tricky: With the embarrassment of talent on this Buckeyes roster, Ohio State's 10-point effort against Michigan still sets a standard for horrible coaching, but it also might be the only thing that could draw out this level of play. At no point in the regular season did Ohio State's offense and defense sync up so perfectly to dismantle teams as talented as their playoff opponents.

Just ask Ohio State quarterback Will Howard, who told reporters before the Rose Bowl that playing angry after Michigan was the difference in the Buckeyes' execution. "I think that's really what the difference

was, was that anger ... that chip on our shoulder that we played with," Howard said.

How maddening that must be for the millions of Buckeyes fans conditioned to measure self-worth by Michigan wins before anything else, save a national championship (we think). Any of Ohio State's 11 touchdown drives over the two playoff games would have been enough to beat Michigan.

Smith, the freshman sensation so physically dominant and talented he is earning legitimate comparisons to Julio Jones, boasts 13 receptions and four touchdowns over those two games. Against Michigan, Smith was targeted twice in the second half in offensive coordinator Chip Kelly's plan.

The history of this sport is chock full of season-ending rivalry upsets. Still, there is little precedent for an end-of-season, historic rivalry game recalibrating the losing program to a championship caliber. Maybe an argument could be made for 1996, when No. 1 Florida lost to No. 2 Florida State to end the regular season. After winning the SEC championship the following week, the Gators earned a rematch with the Seminoles in the Sugar Bowl, winning the one that counted the most for a national title. But Florida's quality of play didn't remarkably improve after the Florida State loss; the Gators just needed a second chance to beat an elite archrival. In a similar case in 2017, Alabama lost to Auburn in

the Iron Bowl before going on to win the national title. But that Crimson Tide team was rolling both before and after its one-week blip against the Tigers.

Local, end-of-season college football rivalries exist more as an existential test than a schematic one. Weird results are considered a function of the heightened emotional investment that we tell ourselves separates college football from pro sports. The unpredictability of highly local, overly emotional narrative stakes outside the game bleed into it by design. These are supposed to be two teams familiar enough with each other to breed a contempt larger than a box score.

But the playoff era diminishes the negative impact of any single loss, and that's a concession most of us were glad to make in exchange for a properly sized bracket.

Accordingly, there's no romance in a story about a power program "learning to get better" from a rivalry loss in the same season, but that's exactly what Ohio State is doing now. In any other decade, Ohio State would have begrudgingly defined its season by that inexplicable loss to Michigan, shuffled off to a bowl game and moved on to next season.

Instead, something almost unprecedented is happening: A team unexpectedly lost to its hated rival and put it to use in the same season. If Ohio State wins two more games, it's unclear which side of college football's biggest rivalry will take more credit for it.



CHRIS GRAYTHEN/GETTY IMAGES

Notre Dame and Georgia fans line up outside the Superdome less than 24 hours after Wednesday's deadly attack in New Orleans.

**SALLY JENKINS**

## Refusing to yield to terror is a subtle act of bravery

JENKINS FROM D1

targeted."

And yet we still go — for the most part without incident. There's something admirably stubborn in the refusal to surrender the public arenas, or the streets that lead to them, to the literal killjoy. We have become experts at what one analyst calls the "security meta-ritual," the art of protecting large arenas from massive attacks and mitigating the threats. It's a real achievement. We still attend, even though it means leaving purses in lockers and passing through electronic gates and by wands and scanners.

We collectively have decided it is worth it to watch brilliant young people explore and refine the messaging system from the brain to the body and the body back again. But even more hardly, we go to the places that lead to stadiums, the plazas and public squares where we collect and fraternize and jeer at opposing colors before and after — and do so, miraculously, without much real violence, in a kind of mutual covenant.

We are willing to do so amid multiple global wars, in cities seething with international contingents, amid multiplying and perhaps uncontrollable vehemence from

extragovernmental actors revving engines and waving blades, asymmetrical terror that disarms defenses with its brazen crude weaponry. As philosopher Jean Baudrillard wrote after 9/11, the strategic advantage of terrorism is "the immense fragility" of our system, our choice to remain open and share this group covenant, "which can, by that very token, be ignited by the slightest spark."

It's indeed fragile, the way we congregate for these festivals of games and jazz. Hardly a college kid in this country, still feeling

immortal in their skin, has not sampled New Orleans, its music, its sugar and bitters. It's almost a rite of passage for American youth. It's not clear that any drones, wide-angle cameras or intelligence could wholly protect them. We have to rely at least to a certain extent on ourselves, our own eye for the person acting oddly, joyless in the crowd. But it's not too much to say that continuing to meet in this way, even in the midst of such tragedy, is the only path to defeating terror.

So, yes, I'll be going to New Orleans for the Super Bowl. You'll find me on one of those sidewalks, having a chicory coffee or a Sazerac with an orange slice.

## Stout defense, special teams send Irish into semifinal

SUGAR BOWL FROM D1

seemed as if neither defense would give much ground, then the offenses found some traction. Senior quarterback Riley Leonard delivered a mistake-free performance for Notre Dame. Georgia, on the other hand, was led by backup Gunner Stockton, who made his first career start in place of the injured Carson Beck.

The ultimate difference? Notre Dame (13-1) got the biggest plays from its defense and special teams, highlighted by a kickoff return touchdown to start the second half. And Leonard, a strong runner, paced the Irish with 80 rushing yards on 14 carries, highlighted by a leap over a Bulldogs defender for a first down late in the game. Marcus Freeman, Notre Dame's coach, gave his players three hours with their families Wednesday, a break from the usual pregame script. The lead-up already jumbled, he felt it was important for them to be close to loved ones.

"Once you found out more details about the tragedy, the emotions took over, each individual differently," Freeman said. "But they handled it spectacularly, and they prepared ... I told them this morning, there are things in life that are unpredictable."

Two hours before kickoff, a Notre Dame fan scrolled his phone, looking at three 600-level tickets for \$28 a pop. The prices had dropped since Wednesday, he explained, but not by much. On Wednesday night, the hotel he and his family stayed in was at 100 percent capacity. By Thursday, it was below 70. Of the people who had headed home, some were afraid of being in a big crowd so soon after the attack, though others just couldn't rearrange their travel without spending a whole paycheck.

Two hours before kickoff, a Notre Dame fan scrolled his phone, looking at three 600-level tickets for \$28 a pop. The prices had dropped since Wednesday, he explained, but not by much. On



MATTHEW HINTON/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Notre Dame's Jayden Harrison returned Georgia's kickoff to open the second half for 98 yards and a score in Thursday's quarterfinal.

Wednesday night, the hotel he and his family stayed in was at 100 percent capacity. By Thursday, it was below 70. Of the people who had headed home, some were afraid of being in a big crowd so soon after the attack, though others just couldn't rearrange their travel without spending a whole paycheck.

"It's freaky, just having been on the same street where he drove that car," Morgan said. "And coming to the game? I mean, yeah, it's weird. But look at all the protection here. No one is getting down these streets."

The city called in lots of help, parking massive vehicles at almost every intersection around the stadium. The Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office lent some trucks, their long beds helping cover more space. The Department of Homeland Security offered a tank and the fleet of soldiers who stood around it, their large guns pointed at the ground. Even the Housing Authority of New Orleans chipped in a few SUVs.

Once inside, though, the game felt a lot like any neutral-site playoff game. Sure, there were empty seats, especially in the second and third decks. But the Georgia fans

still barked, mimicking Bulldogs, to drown out the Notre Dame fight song. It seemed everything — from the second quarter to the instant replays — had a corporate sponsor. And after a moment of silence for the victims, there were two teams fighting for a semifinal spot.

"You're concerned about your family because they're in New Orleans and you don't know where they are," Georgia Coach Kirby Smart said of how his team handled the week. "I don't think you can put a quantifiable measure of concern for both teams. All of our players were on the phone checking on their families."

To start, the crowd was decidedly pro-Georgia, with Bulldogs fans having a much shorter distance to travel. But about 45 seconds of game time flipped the energy Notre Dame's way. The first half was, by and large, defensive gridlock. If either quarterback had a clean pocket, it was only a split second before a pass rusher disrupted that. The teams traded field goals. With under a minute to go in the first half, Irish kicker Mitch Jeter knocked his second of three makes through the uprights for a 6-3 lead.

Georgia (11-3), champion of the SEC, had only a little more than a half-minute to go a long way. The Bulldogs could have knelt and jogged into halftime facing a slim deficit. But the drive turned disastrous on the first play, when Stockton dropped back to pass, then defensive end RJ Oben strip-sacked him from behind. Notre Dame recovered on the Georgia 13-yard line. A play later, Leonard hit Beaux Collins over the middle for a touchdown. Leonard leaned forward, making sure Collins caught it, then turned and yelled at his bench, spreading his arms as if in flight. Notre Dame went into halftime up 10.

On the other side, on the opening kickoff of the half, the Irish's Jayden Harrison broke a tackle, found the edge and sprinted 98 yards for a score, making it 20-3. To that point, the only offensive touchdown was when the Fighting Irish scored with a short field. To punch back, Stockton found Cash Jones for a 32-yard touchdown, pulling Georgia within 10 as close as it would get.

Facing fourth and one in its own territory, the fourth quarter winding down, Notre Dame put its punt unit on the field. But once Georgia's return team had settled in, the Irish rushed their offense on, confusing the Bulldogs. In a panic, some Georgia players scrambled off, though most had to stay on and form a jagged defensive formation. Leonard clapped his hands. Two defensive linemen jumped, the offside penalty extending Notre Dame's drive.

Three plays later, Leonard jumped for the first-down marker, flipping his way across it. The Irish celebrated, though it was nothing close to how they stormed the field when the clock hit zeros. There was, after all, a football game Thursday. Notre Dame won.

"Obviously the events that occurred were very challenging," Leonard said afterward. "But I just want everyone to know that the Notre Dame family, everyone in our locker, is praying for those families that are out there."

Georgians will be the ones to dislodge the Bulldogs from the Super Bowl. Leonard's return was a reminder that the Sugar Bowl is nonsense. Did Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry (R) really think that a day's pause should reassure everyone? The Superdome and the city of New Orleans would be "safer" today than ... yesterday," he said at a news conference Wednesday. Asked whether people should consider staying home, he brayed, "I'll tell you one thing: Your governor is going to be there." A cheeky reporter couldn't resist asking, "You're a bodyguard for 70,000 people?"

Bollards will no doubt be a topic for weeks to come, and hardly anyone will admit they didn't know bollards from billiards before Wednesday; before then, they were just posts. When New Orleans Police Superintendent Anne Kirkpatrick was asked how that truck could have gotten past the Canal Street intersection and onto Bourbon, she said the bollards were being upgraded for next month's Super Bowl, and in the meantime officials had placed a patrol car there to block the street. "We did indeed have a plan, but the terrorist defeated it," she said.

He defeated it by jumping a curb.

Crudity beat the system. A front axle bested surveillance, cybersecurity and intelligence gathering, just as terrorists did on Westminster Bridge in London in 2017 and on the Promenade in Nice, France, on Bastille Day in 2016.

We live with this more than we think we do — we are braver than we suppose. One study identified 74 terrorist attacks targeting sports venues around the world between Jan. 1, 1970, and Dec. 31, 2019, including the Olympics — Munich 1972, Atlanta 1996 and Beijing 2008 — and 33 soccer venues. Al Qaeda magazine Inspire has explicitly advised focusing on sporting events because they offer so

"many times and places to be

## SCOREBOARD

## PRO FOOTBALL

## NFL

## NFC

	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
2-Philadelphia	13	5	0	.813	443	290
2-Washington	11	6	0	.682	462	372
Dallas	7	9	0	.438	331	10%
N.Y. Giants	3	13	0	.188	260	395

	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	9	7	0	.563	475	366
Atlanta	8	8	0	.500	351	379
New Orleans	5	11	0	.313	319	371
Carolina	4	12	0	.250	297	314

	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
2-Detroit	14	2	0	.875	533	354
y-Minnesota	11	5	0	.675	423	301
y-Green Bay	11	5	0	.688	438	355
Chicago	4	12	0	.250	288	348

	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
z-L.A. Rams	10	6	0	.625	342	356
Seattle	9	7	0	.563	345	343
Arizona	7	9	0	.438	353	355
San Francisco	6	10	0	.375	365	389

	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
2-Buffalo	13	3	0	.813	509	345
Miami	8	8	0	.500	525	332
N.Y. Jets	4	12	0	.250	306	384
New England	3	13	0	.188	266	401

	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
2-Houston	9	7	0	.563	349	351
Indianapolis	7	9	0	.438	351	408
Jacksonville	4	12	0	.250	297	314
Tennessee	3	13	0	.188	297	437

	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
2-Baltimore	11	5	0	.688	483	351
y-Pittsburgh	10	6	0	.625	363	328
Cincinnati	8	8	0	.500	450	417
Cleveland	3	13	0	.188	248	401

	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
az-Kansas City	15	1	0	.938	385	288
y-L.A. Chargers	10	6	0	.625	368	281
Denver	9	7	0	.563	387	311
Las Vegas	4	12	0	.250	280	400

y-Clinched playoff spot; z-Clinched division; a-Cclinched field-advantage

## WEEK 18

## SATURDAY'S GAMES

Cleveland at Baltimore (-19%), 4:30

Cincinnati (-1%) at Pittsburgh, 8

## SUNDAY'S GAMES

Washington (-6%) at Dallas, 1

Buffalo (-2%) at New England, 1

Carolina at Atlanta (-7%), 1

Chicago at Green Bay (-10%), 1

Houston at Tennessee (-1%), 1

Jacksonville at Indianapolis (-4%), 1

N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia (-3), 1

New Orleans at Tampa Bay (-13%), 1

Kansas City at Denver (-16%), 4:25

L.A. Chargers (-4%) at Las Vegas, 4:25

Miami (-1%) at N.Y. Jets, 4:25

San Francisco at Arizona (-4%), 4:25

Seattle (-6%) at L.A. Rams, 4:25

Minnesota at Detroit (-2%), 8:20

y-Clinched

The Washington Post

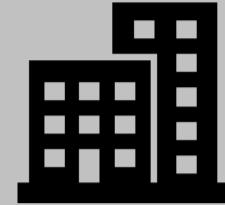
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In execution of the Superior Court for the District of Columbia's Decree of Sale in CASE NUMBER - 2019-CA-00328-R(RP) the undersigned Trustee(s) will offer for sale the property known as 3109 Naylor RD SE 103, Washington, DC 20020 at public auction within the offices of HARVEY WEST AUCTIONEERS, INC. 5335 Wisconsin Avenue NW Suite 440, Washington, DC 20015 202-463-4567. On JANUARY 28, 2025 AT 10:00 AM, the land and premises situated in the District of Columbia, and designated as and being 2007066794, MODIFIED OCTOBER 4, 2017 in , and more particularly described in the Deed of Trust recorded in the Land Records of the District of Columbia, on May 3, 2007 as Instrument Number 2006007898.

The property will be sold by Trustee's Deed "as is" without any covenant, expressed or implied, in Fee Simple, subject to conditions, restrictions, easements, and all other recorded instruments superior to the Deed of Trust referenced above, and subject to ratification by the Court

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of the lesser of \$ 9,000.00 or 10% of the sale price will be required at time of sale in cash or certified funds. The deposit required to bid at the auction is waived for the Noteholder and any of its successors or assigns. The Noteholder may bid up to the credit and may submit a written bid to the trustee which shall be announced at sale. The balance of the purchase price is to be paid in cash within 30 days of final ratification of the sale by the Court.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. If purchaser fails to settle within the aforesaid thirty (30) days of the ratification, the purchaser agrees to pay the Trustees' reasonable attorney fees as ordered by the Court, plus all costs incurred, if the Trustees have filed the appropriate motion with the Court to resell the property. Purchaser waives personal service of any paper filed with the Court in connection with such motion and any Show Cause Order issued by the Court and expressly agrees to accept service of any such paper or Order by certified mail and regular mail sent to the address provided by the purchaser and as recorded on the documents executed by the purchaser at the time of the sale. Service shall be deemed effective upon the purchaser 3 days after postmarked by the United States Post Office. It is expressly agreed by the purchaser that actual receipt of the certified mail is not required for service to be effective. If the purchaser fails to go to settlement the deposit shall be forfeited to the trustees and all expenses of this sale (including attorney fees and full commission on the gross sales price of the sale) shall be charged against and paid from the forfeited deposit. In the event of resale the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profits resulting from any resale of the property regardless of any improvements made to the real property. Interest is to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate contained in the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date the funds are received in the office of the Trustees. In the event that the settlement is delayed for ANY REASON WHATSOEVER, there shall be no abatement of interest. Taxes, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, to be adjusted for the current year to date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for the costs of all transfer taxes, documentary stamps and all other costs incident to settlement. Purchaser shall be responsible for physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss from the date of sale forward. The sale is subject to post sale audit by the Mortgage holder to determine whether the borrower filed bankruptcy, entered into any repayment/foreclosure agreement, reinstated or paid off prior to the sale. In any such event the Purchaser agrees that upon notification by the Trustees of such event the sale is null and void and of no legal effect and the deposit returned without interest. Trustees' File No. 19-14274

HARVEY W  
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T  
AUCTIONEERS, INC.  
3000 Joppa Road, Baltimore, MD 21208  
410-769-9797  
www.hwestauctions.com

Jan 3, 10, 17, 24 2025 0012480176

KASS LEGAL GROUP, PLLC  
4301 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW SUITE 434  
WASHINGTON, DC 20008  
(202) 659-6500

UNIT OWNERS' ASSOCIATION SALE OF VALUABLE CONDOMINIUM UNIT CONTAINED WITHIN PREMISES at 2127 California Street, N.W., #406, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008. Pursuant to District of Columbia Condominium Act of 1976, Section 313 and under the power of sale contained in the Declaration and Bylaws of the Condominium, recorded on December 17, 1979 as Instrument Number 44082 and 44083, and as amended, and in accordance with Public Law 90-566 and D.C. Code Section 42-1903.13, as amended, notice filed December 6, 2024, and at the request of the Attorney for the Unit Owners' Association, we shall sell at public auction on Thursday the 9th day of January 2025, at 11:15 am, within the office of Alex Cooper Auctioneers, 4910 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., #100, Washington, D.C. 20016.

Unit 406 of the Le Bourget Condominium designated on the Records of the Assessor of the District of Columbia for assessment and taxation purposes as Lots 2112 and 2990 in Square 2528.

Terms of sale: Sold Subject to the provisions, restrictions, easements and conditions as set forth in the Declaration of Condominium, the By-Laws relating thereto, and any and all amendments thereto existing deed(s) of trust and real estate taxes, as applicable; the purchase price above said trust(s) to be paid in cash. Also sold Subject to any other prior liens, encumbrances and municipal assessments, if any, as applicable, further particulars of which may be announced at time of sale. A deposit of \$11,000.00 will be required at time of sale, to be paid in cash, certified check, or in such other form as the attorney for the Owners' Association may require in her sole discretion. All conveyancing, recording, recordation tax, transfer tax, etc. at purchaser's cost. All adjustments made as of date of sale. The balance of the purchase price, together with interest at the rate of 10% per annum from date of sale to date of receipt of the balance of the purchase price, must be paid in cash or by cashier's or certified check and all other terms to be complied with within 30 days, otherwise deposit is forfeited and the property may be re-advertised and sold at the discretion of the Owners' Association and the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser. Association shall convey a deed pursuant to D. C. Code Section 42-1903.13 (c) (1) and (3) as amended, and make no further representations or warranties as to title. The Association reserves the right in its sole discretion to rescind the sale at any time until conveyance of the deed. In the event of failure on the part of the Association to convey such deed, the purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit.

Michelle L. LaRue, Esq., Attorney for Owner's Association

ALEX COOPER  
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR  
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTYWilliam M. Savage, et al.  
Substitute Trustees

Versus

Tanya Uranus Downes AKA  
Tanya Uranus AKA  
Tanya Uranus Defendant

No. C-02-CV-24-000955

NOTICE

Notice is hereby issued this Friday, January 12, 2024 that the holder of the Note, the undersigned Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the office of Alex Cooper Auctioneers, 4910 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., #100, Washington, D.C. 20016, the property described in said deed, located at the above address and briefly described below.

Beginning at a point in the northwesterly corner of Virginia State Route 3 at an iron rod, corner with H. L. Jackson, N.W. 23rd Street, ending at the iron rod in the line of M. Brooks; thence with Brooks, N. 43° 40' E 105 feet to the iron rod in the line of M. Brooks; thence S 54° 24' 34" W 420 feet to a rock set in the line of M. Brooks; thence S 54° 24' 34" W 420 feet to a rock set in the line of M. Brooks; thence with the northwestern margin of Virginia State Route 3; thence N 43° 40' E 105 feet to the iron rod, corner with Brooks, thence S 54° 24' 34" W 420 feet to the point of beginning, with any improvements theron.

LESS AND EXCEPT IN deed

336 E. 2000 S. NOTICE

Subject to any and all covenants, restrictions, easements, and all other matters of record taking priority over the Deed of Trust, if any, affecting the aforesaid property.

TERMS OF SALE: CASH: A deposit of \$20,000.00 or 10% of the sale price, whichever is lower, cash or cashier's check, or bank draft, to be required at the time of sale, but no more than \$10,000.00 of cash will be accepted. Payment of settlement will be required at the date of sale from the date of sale. Sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that the bona fide purchaser has been granted protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale which affects the title to the property, as well as to post-sale confirmation of the status of the loan with the lender. Sale is subject to the right of the lender, not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, refinanced the debt or sold the property prior to the time of sale. The sale shall be null and void if the lender, in its sole discretion, determines that the sale is in violation of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. We advise you that this firm is a debt collector attempting to collect the indebtedness referred to herein. For any information we obtain will be used for that purpose.

SAMUEL L. WHITE, P.C.,  
Trustee

This is a communication from a debt collector.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:  
SAMUEL L. WHITE, P.C. (85638)  
448 Viking Drive Suite 350  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452  
757-429-5228  
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or visit our website at  
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SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE  
COMMERCIAL OFFICE BUILDING  
1200 18th STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust, Assignment of Leases and Rents, Fixture Filing and Security Agreement from Ring Associates L.L.C. ("Borrower") dated as of October 28, 2019, and recorded with the District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds ("Land Records") as Instrument No. 2019117777 for the benefit of U.S. Commercial Mortgage Loan Portfolio, A Series of Global Investment Fund I, a Delaware statutory trust as, affected by that certain Assignment and Assumption of Interest Under Deed of Trust, Assignment of Leases and Rents, Fixture Filing and Security Agreement dated June 24, 2024, for the benefit of Paragon Real Estate Holdings II, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and recorded with said Land Records as Instrument No. 2024058914, further affected by that certain Assignment and Assumption of Interest Under Deed of Trust, Assignment of Leases and Rents, Fixture Filing and Security Agreement dated July 26, 2024, for the benefit of DIV Ring Lender, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and recorded with said Land Records as Instrument No. 2024070616 (collectively, the "Deed of Trust"), and that certain Notice of Foreclosure Sale of Real Property, which was recorded in the Land Records on December 4, 2024 as Instrument No.: 2024113244 pursuant to Sections 42-815 and 42-818 of the D.C. Code, the holder of the indebtedness secured thereby, DIV Ring Lender, LLC (or any assignee, the "Beneficiary"), having appointed John T. Farnum and Addison J. Chappell as Substitute Trustees by instrument duly executed, acknowledged and recorded among the Land Records as Instrument No.: 2024112660, default having occurred under the terms of said Deed of Trust and at the request of the Beneficiary, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will offer the following property for sale at Public Auction:

Sale to be held at the Offices of Alex Cooper Auctioneers, Inc.  
4910 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20016  
On Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 12:00 P.M.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION (the "Real Estate"):

All of that certain lot or parcel of land, together with all improvements thereon located, situated and lying in the District of Columbia, and being more particularly described as follows:

LOTS NUMBERED 1, 58, 59, 60 and 61 in Square numbered 139 in a subdivision made by Ebon C. Ingessoll as per plat recorded in Liber J. H. K. at folio 179 in the Office of the Surveyor for the District of Columbia, more particularly described in metes and bounds as follows:

BEGINNING at the Southeast corner of said Lot 1, being the intersection of the North line of M Street with the West line of Eighteenth Street and running thence North along the West line of Eighteenth Street, 123.30 feet to the Northeast corner of said Lot 58; thence West along the North line of said Lot 58, 124.11 feet to the East side of a public alley; thence South along the East side of said alley, 123.40 feet to M Street; thence East along the North line of said M Street 124.47 feet to the point of beginning.

Said property being now known for assessment and taxation purposes as Lot 810 in Square 139.

Such property also being known as 1200 18th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036.

**FIXTURES**

Pursuant to the Deed of Trust and the UCC-1s recorded in Land Records as Instrument Nos. 2019122038, 2024058915, 2024070617, 2019116909, 2024058916, 2024063092 and 2024070618, Beneficiary holds a security interest and lien on all of the assets of Borrower and will sell at public auction on the same date and at the same time and place, ALL OF THE FIXTURES of Borrower located on or about the Real Estate that is subject to the security interest and lien of Beneficiary and not owned by any third party.

TOGETHER WITH any and all buildings, structures, improvements or appurtenances now erected on the Real Estate, including, without limitation, all equipment, apparatus, machinery and fixtures of any kind or character forming a part of said buildings, structures, improvements or appurtenances and located in, upon or about the Real Estate and any buildings thereon all as more particularly described in the Deed of Trust (collectively, the "Property"). The Property does not include any personal property owned by any tenants.

**CONDITIONS OF SALE:**

The Property will be sold in an "AS IS/WHERE IS" condition without any representations or express or implied warranties of any nature whatsoever. In particular, neither the Substitute Trustees nor the Beneficiary make any representation or warranty with respect to, without limitation: (1) the existence, nonexistence, or continued existence, validity, scope or nature of any zoning, land use, development, site plans, occupancy or other governmental permits or approvals; (2) fitness for any particular purpose or use; (3) flood zone designations; (4) compliance with any and all zoning or building laws, regulations and ordinances; (5) the fitness for habitation the structural integrity or condition of any buildings or improvements; (6) ingress, egress or access to the Property or any portion thereof, whether vehicular, pedestrian or otherwise; (7) the rights of parties in possession, if any, or the existence, validity, terms, conditions or other matters with respect to any leases of all or any portion of the Property; (8) the existence of any security deposits or rental payments; (9) compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act; or (10) the condition of the Property, either patent or latent, of any nature whatsoever, including environmental contamination.

Neither the Substitute Trustees nor the Beneficiary shall have any obligation to obtain possession of the Property. It shall be the purchaser's obligation, at the purchaser's sole cost, to obtain possession of the Property.

RISK OF LOSS, INSURABLE OR OTHERWISE, SHALL PASS TO THE PURCHASER IMMEDIATELY AND AUTOMATICALLY AT THE TIME OF SALE. Neither the Substitute Trustees nor the Beneficiary shall have any obligation to obtain or maintain any insurance coverage with respect to the Property.

The Property shall be sold subject to: (1) any easements, restrictions, declarations, site plans, and restrictive covenants of record affecting the same, including, but not limited to any and all condominium restrictions, declarations, bylaws and plats and amendments thereto; (2) any and all disclosures and conditions on any plats of record affecting all or any portion of the Property; (3) any encroachments, overlaps, boundary line disputes and other matters which could be disclosed by an accurate survey of the Property; (4) any matters which would be disclosed by a physical inspection of the Property; (5) any and all environmental conditions, problems and/or violations, if any, that may exist on, affect or relate to the Property or any buildings or improvements thereon; and (6) any and all zoning laws, regulations, PUD overlays, and ordinances or governmental permits or approvals affecting the Property (including without limitation any housing or building code violations, the existence of any lead paint, asbestos or radon or any other hazardous or toxic substances).

**WAIVERS:**

The purchaser waives and releases the Substitute Trustees and the Beneficiary and each of their respective affiliates, agents, successors and assigns from any and all claims the purchaser may now have or may have in the future relating to: (1) any environmental condition or violation affecting all or any portion of the Property; (2) any existing or future building or zoning code problems or violations, and (3) the accuracy or validity of any information described herein.

**TENANCIES:**

The sale of the Property is not made subject to any tenancy entered into after the recording of the Deed of Trust or subordinated thereto. Such tenancy(ies) shall be terminated upon foreclosure in accordance with applicable law.

**IMPROVEMENTS:**

The Property is believed to be improved by a commercial office building.

**TERMS OF SALE:**

This advertisement, as amended or supplemented by any oral announcements during the conduct of the sale, constitutes the Substitute Trustees' entire terms upon which the Property shall be offered for sale, sold or purchased. The Substitute Trustees reserve the unqualified right to postpone the sale, withdraw the Property from sale, in whole or in part, at any time before sale or to release the Property, in whole or in part, from the Deed of Trust at any time before the sale. If the Substitute Trustees determine that the final bid is not commensurate with the value of the Property, they may reject the bid and withdraw the Property from sale. If any dispute arises among the bidders, the Substitute Trustees shall have the sole and final discretion either to determine the successful bidder or to reoffer and resell the Property. A cash deposit or certified check made payable to either of the Substitute Trustees (or as otherwise instructed by the Substitute Trustees) in the amount of \$500,000.00 will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The purchaser is required to increase its deposit to five percent (5%) of the bid price within five business days from the date of the auction. All cash deposits or certified checks shall be delivered to the Substitute Trustees, c/o Miles & Stockbridge P.C., 1201 Pennsylvania Ave., Suite 900, Washington, DC 20004. Attn: John T. Farnum and shall be held by the Substitute Trustees in a non-interest-bearing account to be applied to the purchase price at the time of settlement. The Beneficiary, or its nominee or its assignee, if the successful bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit. The balance of such purchase price, together with interest at the rate of ten percent (10%) per annum on the unpaid purchase money from the date of sale to date of settlement (as hereinafter specified) must be paid in cash by certified check on the date of settlement.

All outstanding real property taxes shall be the sole responsibility of the purchaser. All other taxes and assessments, including, but not limited to, rents, if any, ground rents, other public charges, sewer charges, water rents, regular and special assessments and utilities payable on an annual or any other basis shall be adjusted as of the date of the foreclosure sale and paid by the purchaser at settlement. The purchaser shall pay all expenses and costs required for or incident to its settlement, including, without limitation all, state and local transfer taxes, documentary taxes, recording taxes and fees, title examination costs, title insurance premiums, and attorneys' fees.

The purchaser shall settle and comply with the sale terms within thirty (30) days after date of sale unless said period is extended by the Substitute Trustees, their successors or assigns, for good cause shown. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

If the purchaser defaults, in addition to any other legal or equitable remedies available to them, the Substitute Trustees may declare the entire deposit forfeited and resell the Property at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser. The purchaser shall not be entitled to any surplus proceeds or profit resulting from any resale of all or any portion of the Property.

Neither the Substitute Trustees, the Auctioneer or the Beneficiary or its affiliates are liable individually or otherwise for any matter relating to the sale or to the Property, except that if title to the Property cannot be transferred in accordance with the terms hereof for any reason, such liability is limited solely to the return of the purchaser's deposit. There shall be no other rights or remedies against the Substitute Trustees, the Auctioneer and/or the Beneficiary or any of their respective affiliates, agents, successors and assigns, either in law or equity.

NOTE: The material contained herein describing the Property has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable; however, no express or implied warranty is made as to the accuracy of any description. All dimensions or areas referred herein are approximate.

For further information regarding the sale and the Property, please contact the offices or visit the website of the Auctioneer.

JOHN T. FARNUM  
ADDISON J. CHAPPELL  
Substitute Trustees

ALEX COOPER  
auctioneers  
4910 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20006 • 202.364.0306  
www.alexcooper.com

Dec 30 Jan 1,3,6,8 2025

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2025

EZ

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ORLANS PC  
1602 VILLAGE MARKET BLVD. SE, SUITE 310  
LEESBURG, VA 20175  
703-777-7101SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE  
OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY  
20130 Waringwood Way  
Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Under a power of sale contained in a Deed of Trust from REGINALD LEON FOWLER, dated August 31, 2006, and recorded in Liber 32993, folio 608 among the Land Records of MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD, default having occurred thereunder (Foreclosure Case docketed as Case No.C-15-CV-24-004397; Tax ID No.09-01502388 ) . The Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, located at 50 MARYLAND AVENUE, ROCKVILLE, MD 20850, on

JANUARY 7, 2025 at 1:30 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD and more fully described in above referenced Deed of Trust.

The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit \$35,000.00 will be required at the time of sale, such deposit to be in CERTIFIED CHECK OR BY CASHIER'S CHECK, CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for MONTGOMERY COUNTY. Time is of the essence as to the purchaser. If the purchaser defaults, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold at the purchaser's risk and expense. The purchaser waives personal service and accepts service by first class mail and certified mail addressed to the address provided by said Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale for any Motion or Show Cause Order incident to this sale including a Motion to Default Purchaser and for Resale of the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive any benefit from the resale, including, but not limited to, additional proceeds or surplus which may arise therefrom. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Substitute Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered at the time of sale or any time prior to settlement or if the settlement is delayed for any reason. In the event that the Secured Party executes a forbearance agreement with the borrower(s) described in the above-mentioned Deed of Trust, or allows the borrower(s) to execute their right to reinstate or payoff the subject loan, prior to the sale, with or without the Substitute Trustee's prior knowledge, this Contract shall be null and void and of no effect, and the Purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Purchaser shall pay for documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses. Taxes, ground rent, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. If the Substitute Trustee(s) are unable to convey insurable title for any reason, the purchaser(s) sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to a refund of the aforementioned deposit without interest. In the event the sale is not ratified for any reason, the Purchaser's sole remedy, at law or equity, is the return of the deposit without interest. (File # 23-013654)

JAMES E. CLARKE,  
MARY L. HURLEY,  
PAUL J. MORAN,  
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEESHARVEY W  
S  
AUCTIONEERS, LLC  
300 E. Joppa Road  
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103  
Baltimore, MD 21286  
410-769-9797

Dec 20,27,Jan 3 2025 0012477844

ORLANS PC  
1602 VILLAGE MARKET BLVD. SE, SUITE 310  
LEESBURG, VA 20175  
703-777-7101

SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE  
OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY  
2906 Saint Helen Cir  
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Under a power of sale contained in a Deed of Trust from NICOLE E. PRIESTER, dated July 17, 2019 and recorded in Liber 50843, folio 402 among the Land Records of MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD, default having occurred thereunder (Foreclosure Case docketed as Case No.C-15-CV-24-03504; Tax ID No.13-03119926 ) . The Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, located at 50 MARYLAND AVENUE, ROCKVILLE, MD 20850, on

JANUARY 7, 2025 at 1:30 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD and more fully described in above referenced Deed of Trust.

The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit \$10,000.00 will be required at the time of sale, such deposit to be in CERTIFIED CHECK OR BY CASHIER'S CHECK, CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for MONTGOMERY COUNTY. Time is of the essence as to the purchaser. If the purchaser defaults, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold at the purchaser's risk and expense. The purchaser waives personal service and accepts service by first class mail and certified mail addressed to the address provided by said Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale for any Motion or Show Cause Order incident to this sale including a Motion to Default Purchaser and for Resale of the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive any benefit from the resale, including, but not limited to, additional proceeds or surplus which may arise therefrom. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Substitute Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered at the time of sale or any time prior to settlement or if the settlement is delayed for any reason. In the event that the Secured Party executes a forbearance agreement with the borrower(s) described in the above-mentioned Deed of Trust, or allows the borrower(s) to execute their right to reinstate or payoff the subject loan, prior to the sale, with or without the Substitute Trustee's prior knowledge, this Contract shall be null and void and of no effect, and the Purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Purchaser shall pay for documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses. Taxes, ground rent, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. If the Substitute Trustee(s) are unable to convey insurable title for any reason, the purchaser(s) sole remedy in law or equity is the return of the deposit without interest. (File # 24-006139)

JAMES E. CLARKE,  
MARY L. HURLEY,  
PAUL J. MORAN,  
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEESHARVEY W  
S  
AUCTIONEERS, LLC  
300 E. Joppa Road  
Hampton Plaza - Suite 1103  
Baltimore, MD 21286  
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ORLANS PC  
1602 VILLAGE MARKET BLVD. SE, SUITE 310  
LEESBURG, VA 20175  
703-777-7101SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE  
OF IMPROVED REAL PROPERTY  
19317 Elderberry Terrace  
Germantown, MD 20876

Under a power of sale contained in a Deed of Trust from MARY CATHERINE BAECHTEL and AMELIA BAECHTEL, dated October 30, 2018 and recorded in Liber 56856, folio 412 among the Land Records of MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD, default having occurred thereunder (Foreclosure Case docketed as Case No.C-15-CV-24-004397; Tax ID No.09-01502388 ) . The Sub. Trustees will sell at public auction at the MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, located at 50 MARYLAND AVENUE, ROCKVILLE, MD 20850, on

JANUARY 7, 2025 at 1:30 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD and more fully described in above referenced Deed of Trust.

The property will be sold in an "as is" condition and subject to conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, if any and with no warranty of any kind.

Terms of Sale: A deposit \$10,000.00 will be required at the time of sale, such deposit to be in CERTIFIED CHECK OR BY CASHIER'S CHECK, CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Balance of the purchase price to be paid in cash within ten days of final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court for MONTGOMERY COUNTY. Time is of the essence as to the purchaser. If the purchaser defaults, the deposit shall be forfeited and the property shall be resold at the purchaser's risk and expense. The purchaser waives personal service and accepts service by first class mail and certified mail addressed to the address provided by said Purchaser as identified on the Memorandum of Sale for any Motion or Show Cause Order incident to this sale including a Motion to Default Purchaser and for Resale of the Property. In the event of a resale, the defaulting purchaser shall not be entitled to receive any benefit from the resale, including, but not limited to, additional proceeds or surplus which may arise therefrom. Interest to be paid on the unpaid purchase money at the rate pursuant to the Deed of Trust Note from the date of sale to the date funds are received by the Substitute Trustees. There will be no abatement of interest in the event additional funds are tendered at the time of sale or any time prior to settlement or if the settlement is delayed for any reason. In the event that the Secured Party executes a forbearance agreement with the borrower(s) described in the above-mentioned Deed of Trust, or allows the borrower(s) to execute their right to reinstate or payoff the subject loan, prior to the sale, with or without the Substitute Trustee's prior knowledge, this Contract shall be null and void and of no effect, and the Purchaser's sole remedy shall be the return of the deposit without interest. Purchaser shall pay for documentary stamps, transfer taxes and settlement expenses. Taxes, ground rent, water rent, condominium fees and/or homeowner association dues, all public charges/assessments payable on an annual basis, including sanitary and/or metropolitan district charges, if applicable, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and assumed thereafter by the purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for obtaining physical possession of the property. Purchaser assumes the risk of loss or damage to the property from the date of sale forward. If the Substitute Trustee(s) are unable to convey insurable title for any reason, the purchaser(s) sole remedy in law or equity is the return of the deposit without interest. (File # 23-013654)

JAMES E. CLARKE,  
MARY L. HURLEY,  
PAUL J. MORAN,  
SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEESHARVEY W  
S  
AUCTIONEERS, LLC  
300 E. Joppa Road  
Hampton Plaza - Suite 103  
Baltimore, MD 21286  
410-769-9797

Dec 20,27,Jan 3 2025 0012477892

850 Prince Georges County | 850 Prince Georges County

Brock and Scott, PLLC  
5431 Oleander Drive  
Wilmington NC, 28403SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF  
VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY  
KNOWN AS  
7506 HAINES COURT  
Laurel, MD 20707

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to DAVID F. SKAFF, Trustee(s), dated July 28, 2000, and recorded among the Land Records of PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND in Liber 13969, folio 734, the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustees, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT FRONT OF THE DUVAL WING OF THE COURTHOUSE COMPLEX 14735 MAIN ST, UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772 ON

JANUARY 7, 2025 at 1:30 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD and more fully described as follows:

LOT NUMBERED FORTY-EIGHT (48) IN THE SUBDIVISION KNOWN AS "LOTS 33 THRU 93. SECTION TWO, "HAINES RIDGE" SUBDIVISION, HAYNES ROAD NORTH OR SANDY SPRING ROAD, LAUREL", AS PER PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK NLP 103 AT PAGE 40, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

The property will be sold in an "AS IS WHERE IS" condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes or other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and of HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$8,000.00 payable from purchaser at time of sale, balance in immediately available funds upon final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court of PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND interest to be paid at the rate of 8% on unpaid purchase money from date of sale to date of settlement. The secured party herein, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit. Third party purchaser (excluding the secured party) will be required to complete full settlement of the purchase of the property within TEN (10) CALENDAR DAYS of the ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court otherwise the purchaser's deposit shall be forfeited and the property will be sold at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser. All other public charges and private charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, ground rent, taxes if any, to be adjusted to date of sale. Cost of all documentary stamps and transfer taxes and all other costs incident to the settlement shall be borne by the purchaser. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments will be adjusted to date of sale. If the sale is rescinded or not ratified for any reason, including post sale lender audit, or a resale is to take place for any reason, the purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the aforementioned deposit. The purchaser waives all rights and claims against the Substitute Trustees whether known or unknown. These provisions shall survive settlement Upon refund of the deposit, this sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustees. The sale is subject to post-sale review of the status of the loan and that if any agreement to cancel the sale was entered into by the lender and borrower prior to the sale then the sale is void and the purchaser's deposit shall be refunded without interest. Additional terms and conditions, if applicable, maybe announced at the time and date of sale. Sale is subject to the attestation by the Borrower in accordance with Section 5.4.A of the Governor's order of 10.16.2020 . File No. (15-12417)

JOHN ANSELL, JEREMY B. WILKINS,  
ROBERT A. OLIVERI, AMANDA DRISCOLL,  
PAUL HEINMULLER, JOHN C. HANRAHAN,  
KRISTOPHER HAWKINS, Substitute TrusteesHARVEY W  
S  
AUCTIONEERS, LLC  
300 E. Joppa Road  
Hampton Plaza - Suite 103  
Baltimore, MD 21286  
410-769-9797

Dec 27,Jan 3,2025 0012478158

851 Prince Georges County | 851 Prince Georges County

Brock and Scott, PLLC  
5431 Oleander Drive  
Wilmington NC, 28403SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF  
VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY  
KNOWN AS  
14505 Colonels Choice Road  
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to LAWYERS TITLE REALTY SRVC INC, Trustee(s), dated June 7, 2005, and recorded among the Land Records of PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND in Liber 22585, folio 0740, MODIFIED AUGUST 2, 2019 IN BOOK 42558, PAGE 465, the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustees, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT FRONT OF THE DUVAL WING OF THE COURTHOUSE COMPLEX 14735 MAIN ST, UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772 ON

JANUARY 13, 2025 at 10:00 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD and more fully described as follows:

BENIGN KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS LOT NO. 84, BLOCK A, AS SHOWN ON THE PLAT ENTITLED "PLAT EIGHT, VILLAGES OF MARLBOROUGH, LOTS 65 THRU 85 BLOCK A", PLAT BOOK NLP. NO. 129, FOLIO 97.

Property is subject to a IRS Right of Redemption

The property will be sold in an "AS IS WHERE IS" condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes or other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and of HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$24,500.00 payable from purchaser at time of sale, balance in immediately available funds upon final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court of PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND interest to be paid at the rate of 8% on unpaid purchase money from date of sale to date of settlement. The secured party herein, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit. Third party purchaser (excluding the secured party) will be required to complete full settlement of the purchase of the property within TEN (10) CALENDAR DAYS of the ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court otherwise the purchaser's deposit shall be forfeited and the property will be sold at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser. All other public charges and private charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, ground rent, taxes if any, to be adjusted to date of sale. Cost of all documentary stamps and transfer taxes and all other costs incident to the settlement shall be borne by the purchaser. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments will be adjusted to date of sale. If the sale is rescinded or not ratified for any reason, including post sale lender audit, or a resale is to take place for any reason, the purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the aforementioned deposit. The purchaser waives all rights and claims against the Substitute Trustees whether known or unknown. These provisions shall survive settlement Upon refund of the deposit, this sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustees. The sale is subject to post-sale review of the status of the loan and that if any agreement to cancel the sale was entered into by the lender and borrower prior to the sale then the sale is void and the purchaser's deposit shall be refunded without interest. Additional terms and conditions, if applicable, maybe announced at the time and date of sale. Sale is subject to the attestation by the Borrower in accordance with Section 5.4.A of the Governor's order of 10.16.2020 . File No. (15-12417)

JOHN ANSELL, JOHN C. HANRAHAN,  
BRENNAN FERGUSON, JEREMY B. WILKINS,  
AMANDA DRISCOLL, ROBERT OLIVERI,  
PAUL HEINMULLER, Substitute TrusteesHARVEY W  
S  
AUCTIONEERS, LLC  
300 E. Joppa Road  
Hampton Plaza - Suite 103  
Baltimore, MD 21286  
410-769-9797

Dec 27,Jan 3,2025 0012478158

851 Prince Georges County | 851 Prince Georges County

Brock and Scott, PLLC  
5431 Oleander Drive  
Wilmington NC, 28403SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF  
VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY  
KNOWN AS  
10111 Dorsey Lane  
Lanham, MD 20706

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to JAMES M. SACK, Trustee(s), dated April 29, 2019, and recorded among the Land Records of PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND in Liber 42071, folio 71, MODIFIED MAY 7, 2019 IN BOOK 47704, PAGE 560, the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustees, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED

D10 CLASSIFIED

851 Prince Georges County | 851 Prince Georges County

**Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid & Crane, LLC**  
11350 McCormick Road, EP 1, Suite 302  
Hunt Valley, MD 21031  
470-321-7112

**TRUSTEES' SALE OF  
VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY  
KNOWN AS  
2623 NEMO CT  
BOWIE, MD 20716**

Under a power of sale contained in that Deed of Trust dated July 26, 2004, and recorded in Liber 20355, folio 224, of the land records of PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, with an original principal balance of \$132,000.00, default having occurred under the terms thereof, the appointed Substitute Trustees will offer for sale at public auction at THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT FRONT OF THE DUVAL WING OF THE COURTHOUSE COMPLEX 14735 MAIN ST, UPPER MARLBORO, MD 20772 ON,

JANUARY 13, 2025 at 2:00 PM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND together with any buildings or improvements thereon situated in PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD, located at the above address and more fully described in the aforementioned Deed of Trust.

TAX ID# - 07-0792143

The property and improvements will be sold in an "AS IS" physical condition without warranty of any kind, and subject to all conditions, restrictions and agreements of record affecting the same, including any condominium or homeowners association assessments pursuant to MD Real Property Article § 11-110 and § 11B-117.

TERMS OF SALE: A non-refundable bidder's deposit of \$9,500.00 by cashier's/certified check or such other form as the Substitute Trustee may determine, in their sole discretion, required at time of sale except for the party secured by the Deed of Trust. Risk of loss on purchaser from date and time of auction. The balance of the purchase price together with interest thereon at 5.75% per annum from date of sale to receipt of purchase price by Substitute Trustees must be paid by cashier's check within 10 days after final ratification of sale. The noteholder shall not be obligated to pay interest if it is the purchaser. There will be no abatement of interest due from the purchaser in the event that additional funds are tendered before settlement or if settlement is delayed for any reason. All real estate taxes and other public charges and/or assessments to be adjusted as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser. If applicable, any condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the date of sale shall be purchaser's responsibility. Purchaser shall pay all transfer, documentary and recording taxes/fees, and all other settlement costs. Purchaser is responsible for obtaining possession of the property. Time is of the essence for the purchaser. If purchaser defaults, deposit will be forfeited and property resold at the risk and cost of the defaulting purchaser who shall be liable for any deficiency in the purchase price and all costs, expenses and attorney's fees of both sales. If Substitute Trustees do not convey title for any reason, purchaser's sole remedy is return of deposit without interest. This sale is subject to post-sale audit of the status of the loan secured by the Deed of Trust including but not limited to determining whether prior to sale a bankruptcy was filed; forbearance, repayment or other agreement was entered into; or loan was reinstated or paid off. In any such event this sale shall be null and void and purchaser's sole remedy shall be return of deposit without interest. File No. (23-130005)

KEITH YACKO, DAVID WILLIAMSON,  
Substitute Trustees

**HARVEY W  
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Hampton Plaza, Suite 1103  
Baltimore, MD 21286  
410-769-9797

Dec 27, Jan 3, 2025 0012478130

TRUSTEE'S SALE

12303 Thomas Prospect Drive, Bowie, MD 20720

Trustee's Sale of valuable fee simple property improved by premises known as 12303 Thomas Prospect Drive, Bowie, MD 20720. By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust, dated February 12, 2018, and recorded in Liber 40768 at Page 28 among the land records of the County of Prince George's, in the original principal amount of \$96,000.00. Upon default and request for sale, the undersigned trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Courthouse for the COUNTY OF PRINCE GEORGE'S, at the front of the Duvall Wing of the Courthouse Complex located at 14735 Main Street, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772, on January 7, 2025 at 2:00 PM, all that property described in said Deed of Trust including but not limited to:

Tax ID# 07-3417920

Said property is in fee simple and is improved by a dwelling and is sold in "as is condition" and subject to all superior covenants, conditions, liens, restrictions, easement, rights-of-way, as may affect same, if any.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of 10% of the sale price, cash or certified funds shall be required at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 6.00% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale.

Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser.

If applicable, condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveying, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is the return of the deposit. Trustee's File No. 24-296694.

William M. Savage, et al., Substitute Trustees.

**LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP,**  
Mailing Address: 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400,  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216  
(410) 769-9797

Dec 20, 27, Jan 3 2025 0012477114

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The Washington Post

**Brock and Scott, PLLC**  
5431 Oleander Drive  
Wilmington NC, 28403  
**SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF  
VALUABLE FEE SIMPLE PROPERTY  
KNOWN AS  
312 HENSON ROAD  
Glen Burnie, MD 21060**

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain Deed of Trust to VINN PHAM, Trustee(s), dated April 5, 2007, and recorded among the Land Records of ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND in Liber 2037, folio 397, the holder of the indebtedness secured by this Deed of Trust, having appointed the undersigned Substitute Trustees, by instrument duly recorded among the aforesaid Land Records, default having occurred under the terms thereof, and at the request of the party secured thereby, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction at THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOCATED AT 8 CHURCH CIR, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401 ON,

JANUARY 21, 2025 at 10:00 AM

ALL THAT FEE SIMPLE LOT OF GROUND and improvements thereon situated in ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MD and described as follows:

BEING KNOWN and DESIGNATED AS LOT 54, AS SHOWN ON A PLAT ENTITLED, "SUBDIVISION OF LOTS 9 AND 10 AS SHOWN ON THE RECORDED PLAT OF SUBDIVISION OF PROPERTY ON OLD ANNAPOLIS ROAD, RECORDED IN CABINET 3, ROD E-5, PLAT 11, NEAR GLEN BURNIE, A.A. COUNTY, MD FOR FOXWELL AND FOXWELL, INC.", WHICH PLAT IS RECORDED AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND IN PLAT BOOK 21, FOLIO 25, (ALSO IN PLAT NUMBER NO. 3, ROD F-6, PLAT NO. 8).

The property will be sold in an "AS IS WHERE IS" condition without either express or implied warranty or representation, including but not limited to the description, fitness for a particular purpose or use, structural integrity, physical condition, construction, extent of construction, workmanship, materials, liability, zoning, subdivision, environmental condition, merchantability, compliance with building or housing codes, other laws, ordinances or regulations, or other similar matters, and subject to easements, agreements and restrictions of record which affect the same, if any. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, liens, restrictions and agreements of record affecting same including any condominium and of HOA assessments pursuant to Md Real Property Article 11-110.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$29,000.00 payable in certified check or by a cashier's check will be required from purchaser at time of sale, balance in immediately available funds upon final ratification of sale by the Circuit Court of ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MARYLAND interest to be paid at the rate of 4.125% on unpaid purchase money from date of sale to date of settlement. The secured party herein, if a bidder, shall not be required to post a deposit. Third party purchaser (excluding the secured party) will be required to complete full settlement of the purchase of the property within TEN (10) CALENDAR DAYS of the ratification of the sale by the Circuit Court otherwise the purchaser's deposit shall be forfeited and the property will be resold at the risk and expense of the defaulting purchaser. All other public charges and private charges or assessments, including water/sewer charges, ground rent, taxes if any, to be adjusted to date of sale. Cost of all documentary stamps and transfer taxes and all other costs incident to the settlement shall be borne by the purchaser. If applicable, condominium and/or homeowner association dues and assessments will be adjusted to date of sale. If the sale is rescinded or not ratified for any reason, including post sale tender offer, or the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey insurable title or a resale is to take place for any reason, the purchaser's sole remedy in law or equity shall be limited to the refund of the aforementioned deposit. The purchaser waives all rights and claims against the Substitute Trustee whether known or unknown. These provisions shall survive settlement. Upon refund of the deposit, this sale shall be void and of no effect, and the purchaser shall have no further claim against the Substitute Trustees. The sale is subject to post-sale review of the status of the loan and that if any agreement to cancel the sale was entered into by the lender and borrower prior to the sale then the sale is void and the purchaser's deposit shall be refunded without interest. Additional terms and conditions, if applicable, maybe announced at the time and date of sale. Sale is subject to the attestation by the Borrower in accordance with Section 5.A of the Governor's order of 10.16.2020. File No. (14-20681)

**BRENNAN FERGUSON, JOHN C. HANRAHAN,  
JEREMY B. WILKINS, AMANDA DRISCOLL,  
ROBERT OLIVERI, PAUL HEINMULLER,  
Substitute Trustees**

A181, A316, A311, A183, A425, A426, A461, A463, A508

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Hampton Plaza, Suite 1103  
Baltimore, MD 21286  
410-769-9797

Jan 3, 10, 17 2025 0012480316

TRUSTEE'S SALE

86 Summerfield Drive, Annapolis, MD 21403

Trustee's Sale of valuable fee simple property improved by premises known as 86 Summerfield Drive, Annapolis, MD 21403. By virtue of the power and authority contained in a Deed of Trust, dated February 19, 2008, and recorded in Liber 19999 at Page 593 among the land records of the County of Anne Arundel, in the original principal amount of \$346,500.00. Upon default and request for sale, the undersigned trustees will offer for sale at public auction at the Courthouse for the COUNTY OF ANNE ARUNDEL, at 8 Church Circle, Annapolis, Maryland, on January 7, 2025 at 4:00 PM, all that property described in said Deed of Trust including but not limited to:

Tax ID# 06-815-01569000

Said property is in fee simple and is improved by a dwelling and is sold in "as is condition" and subject to all superior covenants, conditions, liens, restrictions, easement, rights-of-way, as may affect same, if any.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of 10% of the sale price, cash or certified funds shall be required at the time of sale. The balance of the purchase price with interest at 6.00% per annum from the date of sale to the date of payment will be paid within TEN DAYS after the final ratification of the sale.

Adjustments on all taxes, public charges and special or regular assessments will be made as of the date of sale and thereafter assumed by purchaser.

If applicable, condominium and/or homeowners association dues and assessments that may become due after the time of sale will be the responsibility of the purchaser. Title examination, conveying, state revenue stamps, transfer taxes, title insurance, and all other costs incident to settlement are to be paid by the purchaser. Time is of the essence for the purchaser, otherwise the deposit will be forfeited and the property may be resold at risk and costs of the defaulting purchaser. If the sale is not ratified or if the Substitute Trustees are unable to convey marketable title in accord with these terms of sale, the purchaser's only remedy is the return of the deposit. Trustee's File No. 24-295694.

William M. Savage, et al., Substitute Trustees.

**LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP,**  
Mailing Address: 10130 Perimeter Parkway, Suite 400,  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28216  
(410) 769-9797

Dec 20, 27, Jan 3 2025 0012477114

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Baltimore, MD 21286  
410-769-9797

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Dec 20, 27, Jan 3 2025 0012477114

**HARVEY W  
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AUCTION**

# WEEKEND



MAANSI SRIVASTAVA FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

MUSIC

Can't-miss concerts this month usher in a new year on the dance floor. **6**

## A taste of Silver Spring

You'll find a whole world of flavors at these nine top restaurants. **10**

STAGE

Coming in 2025: 'Schmigadoon!' lives, 'Waitress' hits the menu and more. **14**

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WEEKEND

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STEREO VISION

**Betty O’Hellno and Elvis will host the annual Elvis’ Birthday Fight Club at GALA Hispanic Theatre.**

## Elvis’ Birthday Fight Club

The king of rock-and-roll is memorialized in D.C. each year with bouts of cartoony violence interspersed with burlesque performances at Astro Pop Events’ cult favorite Elvis’ Birthday Fight Club, held at GALA Hispanic Theatre. Proudly touted as “glamorously sleazy,” the show pits pop-culture icons against each other in comical, choreographed wrestling-style combat — think Princess Leia vs. Xena Warrior Princess or “The Golden Girls” vs. Florida Man — all overseen by the King himself. At this year’s 14th annual event, Elvis is getting a new co-host with the debut of Betty O’Hellno, the first drag queen to perform a halftime show at a Washington Wizards game.

**When:** Friday and Saturday at 7 and 9:30 p.m.

**Where:** GALA Hispanic Theatre, 3333 14th St. NW. [astropopevents.com](http://astropopevents.com).

**Tickets:** \$25-\$45.

## Last call for holiday lights

The presents have been put away. The relatives have gone home. In some jurisdictions, kids are back at school. But in the midst of all the celebrations in the past few weeks, you might have been too busy to enjoy the twinkling lights and animated displays that make the holidays so cheery. This weekend is the last call for most of the holiday displays across the area, including **ZooLights** at the National Zoo (*through Saturday*, [nationalzoo.si.edu](http://nationalzoo.si.edu)), the **Seasons Greenings** train display at the U.S. Botanic Garden (*through Sunday*, [usbg.gov](http://usbg.gov)), Brookside Gardens’ **Garden of Lights** in Wheaton (*through Sunday*, [montgomeryparks.org](http://montgomeryparks.org)), and **Ice and Lights** at Alexandria’s Cameron Run Regional Park (*through Sunday*, [novaparks.com](http://novaparks.com)).

Some are going out with special events — Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna is hosting “Pup Nights” at its **Winter Walk of Lights** on Friday and Sunday, allowing visitors to bring their leashed dogs (*through Sunday*, [novaparks.com](http://novaparks.com)).

## Sheryl Underwood and Friends

Sheryl Underwood has been making Americans laugh for decades, whether as the host of the long-running CBS panel show “The Talk” and BET’s “Comic View,” her regular appearances on morning radio shows hosted by Steve Harvey and Tom Joyner, and her own Sheryl Underwood Radio. “The Talk” ended in late December, and now Underwood is hitting the road with fellow comics Kyle Erby and Mike Washington on the Mix and Mingle Tour, which

stops at the Improv for five shows.

**When:** Friday and Saturday at 7 and 9:30 p.m.; Sunday at 7 p.m.

**Where:** DC Improv, 1140 Connecticut Ave. NW. [dcimprov.com](http://dcimprov.com).

**Tickets:** \$42.

## First Saturdays: ‘Paris 1874’

The National Gallery of Art welcomes wannabe Parisians of all ages to its monthly First Saturdays open house, which celebrates its monumental exhibition “Paris 1874: The Impressionist Moment.” (The Post review called it a “smart, bracing and unmissable art show.”) The youngest visitors can get hands-on and create art, explore a soft play area, listen to story time or get their faces painted. For older attendees,

there’s a guided sketching lab and a screening of a documentary about the impressionists, created with the help of Paris’s Musée d’Orsay. Oh, and there’s also that exhibition, filled with paintings by Claude Monet, Auguste Renoir and Paul Cézanne, which is on view for only two more weeks.

**When:** Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Where:** National Gallery of Art East Building, Fourth Street and Constitution Avenue NW. [nga.gov](http://nga.gov).

**Admission:** Free.

## Washington Capitals Kids Day

How would your budding hockey fan like to get up close to Alex Ovechkin or Connor McMichael and skate on the same ice as their heroes? The Washington Capitals host a “Kids Day” version of the team’s open practice sessions at the MedStar Capitals Iceplex in Ballston, with games, activities and an appearance by mascot Slapshot, as well as the chance to watch the Capitals run through their drills while sitting right up against the glass. An open skate session — with free skate rental, if needed — follows practice.

**When:** Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

**Where:** MedStar Capitals Iceplex, 627 N. Glebe Rd., Arlington. [washingtoncapitals.com](http://washingtoncapitals.com).

**Admission:** Free.

## ‘Big Goals’ book talk

Want to make your New Year’s resolutions actually stick this time around? Get some pointers from author and executive coach Caroline Adams Miller as she breaks down the science of goal setting from her new book, “Big Goals.” At Politics and Prose’s Northwest flagship, Miller explains her BRIDGE method (which stands for brainstorming, relationships, investments, decisions, grit and excellence) and provides inspiration to help turn those resolutions into reality.

**When:** Monday at 7 p.m.

**Where:** Politics and Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW. [politics-prose.com](http://politics-prose.com).

**Admission:** Free.

**On the cover** Zinnia is among the standout restaurants in Silver Spring.

# Plan Ahead

Noteworthy events over the next few weeks

## Jan. 12-Feb. 18 Festival of Films From Iran

Take a deep dive into the world of Iranian cinema at the Freer Gallery of Art on weekends in January and February, during the National Museum of Asian Art's long-running Festival of Films From Iran. Co-organized with the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the film series showcases excellent recent flicks from Iranian filmmakers as well as movies that exemplify Iranian New Wave. Highlights of the 28th annual event include "Dream's Gate," first-time filmmaker Negin Ahmadi's documentary video diary about her time with an all-female Kurdish militia unit fighting ISIS in Syria, and "The Persian Version," an Iranian American family dramedy interspersed with big dance numbers. Most screenings take place at the Meyer Auditorium, but additional films will be shown at the AFI Silver Theatre in Silver Spring. *Various times. National Museum of Asian Art, 1050 Independence Ave. SW. asia.si.edu. Free; preregistration is suggested but not required.*

## Jan. 13 Coquito Wars

Puerto Rico's rum- and coconut-infused version of eggnog is the star of Coquito Wars, a ticketed annual cocktail competition hosted by the cocktail bar within Union Market Latin food hall La Cosecha. Serenata is once again gathering



VINA SANANIKONE

**The Dry January Party at the Square, a food hall in downtown D.C., offers a chance to sample spirit-free cocktails and nonalcoholic drink brands. There'll also be live music and merch to take home.**

mixologists from hot spots around Washington to create their own take on the coquito. A panel of judges determines the winner, and all attendees receive complimentary tastes. *6:30 p.m. to midnight. Serenata, 1280 Fourth St. NE. serenatadc.com. \$25.*

## Jan. 15 DC Improv Date

Night D.C.'s best-known comedy club is taking the guesswork out of date night by pulling together a special evening designed for couples. The \$99 "All-In Date Night" package

features two tickets at a guaranteed table for two, along with two drinks, two food items and a dessert to split (gratuity is even included in the price). The four comedians on the lineup are in on the conceit, too: The sets from these local stand-ups are promised to stick to "date-friendly" material. And while it may be called DC Improv Date Night, singles are welcome to treat themselves, too, with tickets at \$15. *7:30 p.m. DC Improv, 1140 Connecticut Ave. NW. dcimprov.com. \$99 for the date night package for two; \$15 for general admission.*

## Jan. 15-Feb. 16 'What the Constitution Means to Me'

Playwright Heidi Schreck's "What the Constitution Means to Me" earned accolades including Tony Award nods and a Pulitzer Prize nomination, as well as an extended run on Broadway and a 2019 stint at the Kennedy Center. Now the play is heading for Bethesda's Round House Theatre, featuring an exclusive update for 2025. Drawing from Schreck's experience as a teen earning college tuition money in constitutional debate competitions, "What the Constitution Means to Me" is a reflection on the impact of one of the nation's founding documents on multiple generations of women in her family. Although Schreck isn't performing in Round House's new version, she and director Morgan Gould worked together to revise the script to address recent Supreme Court rulings. *Various times. Round House Theatre, 4545 East-West Hwy., Bethesda. roundhousetheatre.org. \$50-\$89.*

## Jan. 23 Dry January Party

Whether you're a nondrinker, taking the whole month off of alcohol or just going sober-curious to kick off the new year, the Square's Dry January Party is worth marking on your calendar. The downtown food hall will throw a party centered on mocktails, complete with live music and a chance to try samples from nonalcoholic drink brands. Keep the party going through the rest of Dry January, since each ticket holder heads home with a goody bag stuffed with at least \$50 worth of merch. *5:30 to 10 p.m. The Square, 1850 K St. NW. dcthesquare.com. \$15.*

— Adele Chapin

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CHRIS SORENSEN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**"What the Constitution Means to Me" playwright Heidi Schreck helped update the script for a Round House Theatre production.**

## MUSEUMS

The following special exhibitions are on view at area museums. For a complete list of all permanent, indefinite and long-term exhibitions, please consult individual museum websites. Museums marked with an \* are free. Note: The National Geographic Museum and the Smithsonian's Arts and Industries Building are temporarily closed for renovations.

**\*ANACOSTIA COMMUNITY MUSEUM** "A Bold and Beautiful Vision: A Century of Black Arts Education in Washington, DC, 1900-2000," through March 2. Artifacts and original artworks highlight this exhibition honoring African American artist-educators. 1901 Fort Pl. SE. [anacostia.si.edu](http://anacostia.si.edu)

**CAPITAL JEWISH MUSEUM** "JewCE: The Jewish Comics Experience," through March 23. This exhibition highlights comic book superheroes who came from the minds of Jewish creators, writers and artists, as well as contemporary graphic novels that explore Jewish themes.

The museum features two ongoing exhibitions about Jewish history, from 1790 to today, and how to build a better future in the National Capital Region: "What Is Jewish Washington?" and "Connect. Reflect. Act." 575 Third St. NW. [capitaljewishmuseum.org](http://capitaljewishmuseum.org)

**\*DUMBARTON OAKS** "Striking Designs: Communicating Through Coins," through May 31. An exploration of how the Roman and Byzantine Empire used money to spread ideology. "The White House," through June. This installation by Colombian artist Santiago Montoya features 12 houses of varying sizes – 11 made of coal and one made of white chocolate. 1703 32nd St. NW. [doaks.org](http://doaks.org)

**\*FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY** "Imprints in Time," through Sunday. This display features rare books and manuscripts from the eclectic collection of Stuart and Mimi Rose.

"Little Books, Big Gifts: The Artistry of Esther Inglis," through Jan. 19. The artistic, literary and social networking achievements of Inglis, a working mother of eight who was William Shakespeare's contemporary, are on view. 201 East Capitol St. SE. [folger.edu](http://folger.edu)

**\*GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MUSEUM AND TEXTILE MUSEUM** "Art Uncovered: Visionary Textile Scholars and Their Archives," through April 5. A global selection of letters, photos and more from the Arthur D. Jenkins Library's archives. "A Tale of Two Houses," through May 17. An exploration of two houses central to D.C. history: the Woodhull House in Foggy Bottom and George Hewitt Myers's Kalorama residence. 701 21st St. NW. [museum.gwu.edu](http://museum.gwu.edu)

**HILLWOOD ESTATE, MUSEUM AND GARDENS** "Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean," through Sunday. This exhibition includes works that evoke the water, as well as pieces created with oceanic materials. 4155 Linnean Ave. NW. [hillwoodmuseum.org](http://hillwoodmuseum.org)

**\*HIRSHHORN MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE GARDEN** "Revolutions: Art From the Hirshhorn Collection, 1860-1960," through April 20. This collection presents 208 artworks made during a period defined by evolutions in science, philosophy and mechanization. "Osgemeos: Endless Story," through Aug. 3. This full-floor presentation tracks the collaboration and artistic trajectory of Brazilian identical twins Gustavo and Otavio Pandolfo. "Basquiat x Banksy," through Oct. 26. The exhibition highlighting two paintings, one by Jean-Michel Basquiat and one by Banksy, marks the first time either artist's work has been presented at the museum. 7th Street and Independence Avenue SW. [hirshhorn.si.edu](http://hirshhorn.si.edu)

**INTERNATIONAL SPY MUSEUM** "Bond in Motion," through April. A celebration of the James Bond film franchise featuring props and scale models alongside cars, motorcycles and more 007 vehicles. 700 L'Enfant Plaza SW. [spymuseum.org](http://spymuseum.org)

**KREEGER MUSEUM** "The DMV Collects the DMV," through Feb. 1. This celebration of the Washington Print Club's 60th anniversary features the work of 49 artists who lived in the D.C. region or built their careers there. 2401 Foxhall Rd. NW. [kreegermuseum.org](http://kreegermuseum.org)



TY COLE/ NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM

**The Hubert H. Humphrey Building, headquarters for the Department of Health and Human Services, is among the Washington buildings examined in "Capital Brutalism" at the National Building Museum.**

**\*LIBRARY OF CONGRESS** "Collecting Memories: Treasures From the Library of Congress," through December. The David M. Rubenstein Treasures Gallery's first exhibition examines the ways in which cultures preserve memory. Thomas Jefferson Building, 10 First St. SE. [loc.gov](http://loc.gov)

**MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE** "Sacred Words: Revealing the Earliest Hebrew Book," through Jan. 12. The oldest known Hebrew book, featuring Sabbath morning prayers and liturgical poems, is on display. "Billy Graham's Canvas Cathedral," through Jan. 26. A reflection on Billy Graham's evangelistic campaigns in the late 1940s. "The Megiddo Mosaic: Foundations of Faith," through July 6. This interactive exhibit showcases an ancient mosaic floor discovered by archaeologists in 2005. 400 Fourth St. SW. [museumofthebible.org](http://museumofthebible.org)

**\*NATIONAL ARCHIVES MUSEUM** "Power & Light: Russell Lee's Coal Survey," through Dec. 7. A display of more than 200 images of coal communities from American documentary photographer Russell Lee. 701 Constitution Ave. NW. [museum.archives.gov](http://museum.archives.gov)

**NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM** "Capital Brutalism," through Feb. 17. An exploration of the Metro system and seven D.C. buildings designed in the polarizing brutalist style.

"Frank Lloyd Wright's Southwestern Pennsylvania," through March 17. This exhibition shines a light on projects the architect designed for the region from the 1930s through the 1950s.

"Brick City," through spring. U.K.-based artist Warren Elsmore uses Legos to re-create destinations from all seven continents, including New Orleans during Mardi Gras and medieval Japanese castles. "Mini Memories: Souvenir Buildings From the David Weingarten Collection," through 2025. A showcase of 400 miniature building souvenirs from nearly 70 countries.

"House & Home," ongoing. A collection of photographs, models, films and objects that examine American homes both familiar and unconventional.

"Building Stories," ongoing. This immersive exhibition dives into the world of architecture, engineering, construction and design as depicted in children's books. 401 F St. NW. [nbm.org](http://nbm.org)

**\*NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART** "Gordon Parks: Camera Portraits From the Corcoran Collection," through Jan. 12. A display of 25

**\*NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE** "Reclaiming My Time," through February. An exhibition highlighting work by contemporary Black designers about issues of cultural heritage, bodies at rest, labor and leisure. "Reckoning: Protest. Defiance. Resilience," ongoing. The exhibition focuses on the Black Lives Matter movement and art that depicts resistance and protest. 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. [nmaahc.si.edu](http://nmaahc.si.edu)

**\*NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN ART** "From the Deep: the Wake of Drexciya With Ayana V. Jackson," through Monday. Artist Ayana V. Jackson uses animation, immersive video, installation, sound and scent in an exhibition inspired by the 1990s techno band Drexciya, whose albums imagined a mythical aquatopia populated by descendants of pregnant African women thrown (or who jumped) overboard into the Atlantic during the Middle Passage. "Bruce Onobrakpeya: The Mask and the Cross," through Jan. 21. A showcase of Nigerian sculptor and printmaker Bruce Onobrakpeya's earliest commissions from the late 1960s. "John Akomfrah: Five Murmurations," through Aug. 24. The Ghanaian-born, London-based artist and filmmaker addresses the covid-19 pandemic, the murder of George Floyd and the worldwide protests in support of Black Lives Matter in this visual essay of our times.

"Benin Bronzes: Ambassadors of the Oba," through Dec. 31, 2026. Nine bronze artifacts taken by the British during the Benin Punitive Expedition of 1897 are on display as part of a long-term loan from the National Commission for Museum and Monuments in Nigeria. 950 Independence Ave. SW. [africa.si.edu](http://africa.si.edu)

**\*NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY** "Forensic Science on Trial," through June. An exhibition breaking down how forensic science has been used in more than 150 years of trials. "Presente! A Latino History of the United States." The Molina Family Latino Gallery is the first gallery space of the new National Museum of the American Latino; it tells U.S. history from the perspective of members of the diverse Latino community and covers themes such as immigration, identity and legacy. Constitution Avenue NW, between 12th and 14th streets. [americanhistory.si.edu](http://americanhistory.si.edu)

SEE EXHIBITS ON 8

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JAY LEIBY

# Philly's Hit Like a Girl refuses to be boxed in

BY MARK JENKINS

**S**inger-guitarist Nicolle Maroulis is the only permanent member of Hit Like a Girl. But that doesn't mean the musician is inclined to go it alone.

"I'm pretty extroverted," Maroulis says in a phone interview. "I love community. I love being a part of things."

Maroulis, who is nonbinary, found a larger circle of collaborators by moving to Philadelphia from a northern New Jersey suburb almost three years ago. "I didn't want to be stagnant anymore," they say. "I needed to move somewhere that had more options for me. I knew I had to go somewhere, and Brooklyn is like \$3,000 a month for a studio apartment."

Maroulis, now 33, started writing songs at 16.

Nicolle Maroulis started Hit Like a Girl as a solo act but has been having "a lot more fun" since adding band members to the mix.

They chose their stage name in a defiant mood. "It's kind of like saying, 'Yeah, maybe I do hit like a girl. So what? What of it?'"

The project began as "a singer-songwriter solo-acoustic thing," Maroulis recalls, influenced in part by Taylor Swift. "A lot of people are surprised by that," they acknowledge with a laugh. "Her songs paint a very specific picture in your head. And I try to do something similar."

Hit Like a Girl couldn't stay a solo project, however. "Over the years, my anxiety started developing, and I decided it wasn't very much

SEE MAROULIS ON 7

# Dance into the new year at these January events

BY CHRIS KELLY

In the past few years, artist-specific dance nights have helped dancers, DJs and venues get back on their feet after pandemic-related closures and disruptions to daily life. But what was once an occasional serving of instant nostalgia — say, a Taylor Swift vs. Olivia Rodrigo DJ set — has evolved into a full menu of nights dedicated to pop stars du jour.

"It's really just trying to find a genuine way to stimulate people's native interests and get them to come out under an avatar of some sort," says Brian Sikes Howe, production manager at TSN Parties, a company that throws several such nights across the United States. "It's more of a vibe."

TSN will serve up vibes at two D.C. events in January: **Short n' Sabrina**, dedicated to Sabrina Carpenter (Saturday at 8 p.m. at 9:30 Club, [930.com](http://930.com), \$20), and **Sapphic Factory: Queer Joy Party** (Jan. 11 at 8:30 p.m. at 9:30 Club, [930.com](http://930.com), \$22). The former promises not just recent hits like "Espresso" and "Taste" but deeper cuts from the discography of an erstwhile Disney star who released five albums before her *Eras* Tour-assisted breakout.

Meanwhile, Sapphic Factory is billed as a celebration of "eternal longing" and the music of artists like Chappell Roan, Muna and Boygenius. The focus on queer artists and audience members is an intentional move to build a safe space and serve a community so that revelers can cut loose without some of the negative as-

pects of nightlife.

"If anybody's going to get bothered to pick out an outfit, ask friends to go and travel across town, they just want to have fun," Sikes Howe says. "Making it a fun, comfortable, inviting environment is the top priority."

These dance nights are also a way for fans to sing along and dance to the music of their favorite artists without shelling out the ever-increasing amount of cash that pop star concert tickets require (to say nothing of the globe-trotting undertaken by superfans).

"There could be many reasons for the popularity, but one is that all of these artists' tours sell out quickly and this allows fans a night to still dance and experience their music with fellow fans," says Audrey Fix Schaefer, communications director for I.M.P. venues including 9:30 Club. "It's a beautiful communal thing to take part in."

And even after an artist's tour has come and gone, the party isn't necessarily over. Consider Charli XCX: The British singer-songwriter's *Sweat* Tour stopped in Baltimore in September, but "Brat" summer continued into fall and now winter as the album topped year-end lists and gets ready for awards season. Threesix-five party girls have filled out nights including the Brat Rave, the Charli Parti and TSN's Club Classxcx, and they have another chance with **Club XCX** (Jan. 24 at 10 p.m. at Union Stage, [unionstagepresents.com](http://unionstagepresents.com), \$15-\$25).

SEE MUSIC ON 7



KEVIN HINTON

A dance party at 9:30 Club, which will also be the site of a **Short n' Sabrina** night and **Sapphic Factory: Queer Joy Party** this month.

## MUSIC FROM 6

At Club XCX, Skylan will spin dance cuts by Charli and her constellation of collaborators, including Billie Eilish, Troye Sivan and Slayyyter. For the Raleigh, North Carolina-based DJ, artist-specific dance nights (she also has played Taylor Swift- and Chappell Roan-themed parties) make up the majority of her income while also helping her foster a safe space for women and the LGBTQ+ community.

"Everyone is going [to these nights] to enjoy themselves and to listen to the music," she says. "I love providing that for people, whereas in a club, it's a mixed bag."

As an added bonus, Club XCX is a bit easier for the EDM DJ to prepare for because "Brat" is already so ready for the floor.

"I don't have to remix any of Charli XCX's songs," she says. "They're all super upbeat, and they're all club-worthy. It's great."

## Three other events to catch

## Girls Rock! DC Benefit

Girls Rock! DC is a nonprofit that provides music education and community building for girls and nonbinary youths, especially in racial minorities, through after-school programs, workshops and camps. This benefit show features East Coast Offense, a Virginia-based foursome fronted by Annie Guske on vocals and keys; D.C. alt-rock newcomers Modest Goddess; singer-poet Natalie E. Illum; and Petrichor, a D.C. youth band made up of Girls Rock! alumni who are already on to something with songs like "Why'd You Steal My Monster Energy If You Were Already Insane." (Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Songbyrd. [songbyrddc.com](http://songbyrddc.com). \$19.)

## Mosh Madness

"MTV's Rock N' Jock" was a '90s-kid staple that brought together athletes, musicians and other celebrities for events like the Diamond Derby and B-Ball



SAPPHIC FACTORY

Jam. Consider Mosh Madness the D.C. indie scene version of the latter: 16 teams made up of bandmates settle it on the court while a handful of D.C.'s best acts — Pretty Bitter, Spring Silver, Flowerbomb, Pinky Lemon and Massie — perform onstage. The battle to determine "the best balling band in the whole DMV who also signed up for this particular tournament" will donate all proceeds

to the Palestine Children's Relief Fund. (Jan. 11 at 3 p.m. at Takoma Park Presbyterian Church. [ticketleap.com](http://ticketleap.com). \$15.)

## The 3rd annual Abortion Access Benefit Series

Ground Control Touring is back with the latest edition of its Abortion Access Benefit Series, a day of concerts with all proceeds benefiting nonprofit Noise For Now, which will allocate funds to

local independent abortion clinics and abortion funds in each region. The D.C. edition of the series, which includes concerts in eight cities, features a loaded bill of bands with ties to D.C. and Virginia, including Yaya Bey, Clear Channel, Flowers for the Dead, Birthday Girl, Simpson and more to be announced. (Jan. 25 at 8 p.m. at Songbyrd. [songbyrddc.com](http://songbyrddc.com). \$32.)

**Sapphic Factory events focus on queer artists and audience members as a way to build a safe place for revelers to have fun without some of the negative aspects of nightlife.**

## MAROULIS FROM 6

fun being onstage by myself. So I started introducing band members to the mix. It's been a lot more fun ever since."

The current lineup is guitarist Sean Bonney-Burill, bassist Blue, drummer Mike Davis and synth player Mol White. All of them also perform solo or in other Philadelphia bands.

Most of those players appear on Maroulis's latest release: "The Decider," a folkie-rock tune the musician released as a single. It "was a song I couldn't get out of

my head. I was like: 'I have to get this out now. It's clouding everything in my head right now, so if I get it out, I can move on.'

Before "The Decider," the musician took a stylistic swerve into punk-metal with 2022's "Becoming." Recorded with members of two Cleveland bands, the EP was inspired by the fierce performance of an Atlanta outfit, the Callous Daoboyz, that the collaborators saw at a music festival.

Maroulis says they and their friends all had the same reaction: "We were like, 'That! I want to do that!'"

"I love all different kinds of music, and I don't think any artists should ever put themselves in a box," they note. "Even though we consider ourselves an emo-indie band, I also really love punk and hardcore, and I grew up with that."

Nearly all the EP's screechy vocals were delivered by Maroulis, who laughs when asked whether it hurts to sing like that. "Yes. Thank you for asking."

"I spent \$75 for this course online, 'The Zen of Screaming,' by this well-known vocal coach for all these big old metal bands.

It was really helpful."

The tour that will bring Hit Like a Girl to DC9 is a short one, but the musician has big plans for 2025, including European gigs and new recordings. Although they've released only one song in the past two years, Maroulis has been busy as a tour manager for other bands and an organizer of No More Dysphoria, which they founded in 2016.

"It helps transgender, nonbinary and gender-nonconforming people pay for different parts of their transitions," they explain.

"The band helps give the nonprofit a platform, and the nonprofit is run a little bit like a band. Because that's the only way I know how to do things."

If it all comes back to music, Maroulis doesn't find that limiting. After all, they followed the larynx-shredding "Becoming" with "The Decider," a lilting tune that features a banjo.

"I think if you like a bunch of stuff, there are no rules," they say. "You can do whatever you want."

Wednesday at 8 p.m. at DC9, 1940 Ninth St. NW. [dc9.club](http://dc9.club). \$15.

## EXHIBITS FROM 5

**\*NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN** "Sublime Light: Tapestry Art of D.Y. Begay," through July 13. The first retrospective of the Navajo fiber artist's career features 48 tapestries spanning three decades of work. "Unbound: Narrative Art of the Plains," through Jan. 20, 2026. Historical hides, muslins and ledger books from the Great Plains are presented alongside 50 contemporary works commissioned by the museum. Fourth Street and Independence Avenue SW. [americanindian.si.edu](http://americanindian.si.edu)

**\*NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ASIAN ART** "An Epic of Kings: The Great Mongol Shahnama," through Jan. 12. An exhibition featuring 25 folios from the Shahnama, the celebrated medieval Persian manuscript. "Striking Objects: Contemporary Japanese Metalwork," through Jan. 11, 2026. Works from the collection of Shirley Z. Johnson highlight the ways in which modern Japanese metalworking is used in traditional methods. 1050 Independence Ave. SW. [asia.si.edu](http://asia.si.edu)

**\*NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY** "Lights Out: Recovering Our Night Sky," through December. Photographs, objects, models and interactive elements are used to explore the effects of light pollution. "Dazzling Diversity," through Dec. 16. Early natural history books from the Smithsonian Libraries and Archives put scientific knowledge of the insect world on display. "Cellphone: Unseen Connections," through 2026. This exhibition, about the way phones connect us to the natural world, features multimedia installations, a sprawling graphic novel and more than 750 objects. 10th Street and Constitution Avenue NW. [naturalhistory.si.edu](http://naturalhistory.si.edu)

**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS** "Suchitra Mattai: Myth From Matter," through Jan. 12. An exhibition pairing the Guyanese-born artist's recent work, including mixed media and sculpture, with objects sourced from D.C. collections. "Samantha Box: Confluences," through March 23. This display highlights the Bronx-based photographer's black-and-white work exploring race, gender, class, and sexuality. "In Focus: Artists at Work," through April 20. Video documentaries explore the creative processes of eight contemporary artists. 1250 New York Ave. NW. [nmwa.org](http://nmwa.org)

**\*NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY** "Brilliant Exiles: American Women in Paris, 1900-1939," through Feb. 23. An exhibition highlighting the feats of 60 American women who traversed the Atlantic in the early 20th century in pursuit of creative freedom.

"This Morning, This Evening, So Soon:



MARK FINKENSTAEDT/HILLWOOD ESTATE, MUSEUM &amp; GARDENS

**Marjorie Merriweather Post's vast collection of pearl, ivory, seashell and other marine artworks is featured in "Fragile Beauty: Art of the Ocean," an exhibit at Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens that is on view through Sunday.**

baseball and postal history have intersected since the early 20th century. "Voting by Mail: Civil War to Covid-19," through Feb. 23. This election-year exhibition features objects spanning three centuries that have been used to help U.S. citizens vote by mail. 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE. [postalmuseum.si.edu](http://postalmuseum.si.edu)

**PHILLIPS COLLECTION** "William Gropper: Artist of the People," through Sunday. Dozens of works from Gropper, the son of immigrants from Romania and Ukraine, comment on 20th-century sociopolitical issues.

"Breaking It Down: Conversations From the Vault," through Jan. 19. This eclectic exhibition presents more than 90 works from historic and contemporary artists. 1600 21st St. NW. [phillipscollection.org](http://phillipscollection.org)

**\*RENWICK GALLERY** "Subversive, Skilled, Sublime: Fiber Art by Women," through Sunday. Works of cotton, wool, polyester and silk are presented in an exhibition that considers an alternative history of American art.

"Contemporary Craft at the Renwick Gallery," ongoing. More than 100 works composed of fiber, ceramics, glass, metal, wood and other materials showcase handmade art of the 21st century.

"Janet Echelman's 1.8 Renwick," ongoing. The American sculptor's fiber and lighting installation projects shadow drawings in colors that move from wall to wall. Pennsylvania Avenue and 17th Street NW. [americanart.si.edu](http://americanart.si.edu)

**\*SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM** "Artist to Artist," through May 18. This rotating exhibition highlights eight artist pairings, each of which features two figures whose trajectories intersected at a key moment.

"Pictures of Belonging: Miki Hayakawa, Hisako Hibi, and Miné Okubo," through Aug. 17. An examination of the art from three trailblazing American women of Japanese descent.

"The Shape of Power: Stories of Race and American Sculpture," through Sept. 14. A collection of 82 works created between 1792 and 2023 examines how sculpture and race in America have intersected.

"Sightlines: Chinatown and Beyond," through Nov. 30. This gallery overlooking D.C.'s Chinatown neighborhood highlights Asian Americans' cultural impact on the nation's capital.

"Isaac Julien: Lessons of the Hour — Frederick Douglass," through 2026. A joint purchase by the Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, this five-screen video installation uses period reenactments to create a portrait of the activist, writer, orator and philosopher Frederick Douglass. G and Eighth streets NW. [americanart.si.edu](http://americanart.si.edu)

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James Baldwin and the Voices of Queer Resistance," through April 20. Curated by Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Hilton Als, this collection explores the interconnected lives of Baldwin, Lorraine Hansberry, Bayard Rustin and other queer civil rights activists. "Picturing the Presidents: Daguerreotypes and Ambrotypes from the National Portrait Gallery's Collection," through June 8. This exhibition features photographs of 11 U.S. presidents. "Felix Gonzalez-Torres: Always to Return," through July 6. The artist's work is presented in D.C. for the first time in more than 30 years, with a focus on his groundbreaking portraiture. "Recent Acquisitions," through Oct. 26. This display showcases 21 additions to the museum's collection, all representing female subjects or made by women. Subjects include singer Beyoncé Knowles-Carter, Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, writer Octavia Butler and actress Greta Garbo. "Star Power: Photographs From Hollywood's Golden Age by George Hurrell," through Jan.

**Collecting Memories: Treasures From the Library of Congress**, the first exhibition in the library's David M. Rubenstein Treasures Gallery, examines the ways in which cultures preserve memory.



SHAWN MILLER/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

# Tracing the contours of race and power

SAAM sculpture exhibit challenges traditional themes and attitudes

BY MARK JENKINS

The Smithsonian American Art Museum's "The Shape of Power: Stories of Race and American Sculpture" is a complex and eclectic exhibition, and one that includes multiple subordinate themes. But in a way, it begins as a dialogue between just two pieces — Hiram Powers's "The Greek Slave" and Roberto Lugo's "DNA Study Revisited" — that were created almost two centuries apart.

Powers's marble sculpture, which was produced multiple times in various sizes and sometimes with different details, is a story in itself. Originally modeled in clay in 1843, it became the first publicly exhibited American sculpture of a fully nude woman, and during the 19th century was one of the best-known sculptural works by an American art-

If you go

## THE SHAPE OF POWER: STORIES OF RACE AND AMERICAN SCULPTURE

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Eighth and F streets NW. 202-633-7970. [americanart.si.edu](http://americanart.si.edu).

**Dates:** Through Sept. 14.

**Prices:** Free.

ist. (The Vermont-born Powers, who lived and worked in Washington for a few years, made the piece in Italy, where he ultimately settled.) Although the statue's mode is classical, its subject was then recent: It depicts a Christian woman enslaved by Turkish captors during the 1821-1832 Greek revolt against the Ottoman Empire.

Lugo's 2022 piece is even more up-to-date. It's a urethane-resin cast of the Philadelphia-born artist's own body, decorated with colorful patterns that represent his genetic heritage: African, Portu-

SEE SCULPTURE ON 13



LUCIA RM MARTINO/SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM



SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM

The sweeping Smithsonian American Art Museum exhibit creates a dialogue between two pieces separated by nearly two centuries: "The Greek Slave," left, by Hiram Powers, and "DNA Study Revisited," above, by Roberto Lugo.



PHOTOS BY SCOTT SUCHMAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## The 9 best places to eat in Silver Spring

These restaurants will transport you to Mexico, Africa or the Deep South

BY WARREN ROJAS

While it's just seven miles from the White House (as the crow flies), Silver Spring really is a world away in terms of local dining options.

This melting pot of global cuisines showcases cooking traditions refined in the Deep South, below the border in Mexico and even at opposite sides of Africa.

Whether you want to bask in the sun-splashed garden of a historical property or pull up a chair with a view of whirring gas pumps, allow these dining recommendations from Washington Post food critic Tom Sietsema, Post food writer Tim Carman and your intrepid local dining reporter to serve as a road map for savoring suburbia.

### Lime & Cilantro

1909 Seminary Rd., Silver Spring. [limecilantro.com](http://limecilantro.com).

Sietsema seems to have waited his whole life to extol the virtues of "Mexican Seoul food!" And Lime & Cilantro chef/founder Danny Chavez made it all happen. "His menu is basically an art show," Sietsema writes in his 2024 fall dining guide of the striking local newcomer, praising innovative dishes like al pastor tacos bolstered by sweet fermented pineapple and spicy gochujang, chicken empanadas surrounded by a multicolored lake of scintillating sauces (chimichurri, chipotle aioli and guajillo oil), and signature tamales laced with savory chicken broth. He praises the first-time restaurateur for reimagining "food you think you know ... with delicious twists" and revels in uncovering a new addition specializing in "sheer pleasure, hold the guilt." (Entrées \$20 to \$28.)

### Taqueria Sabor Mixteco

2462 Ennalls Ave., Silver Spring. [sabormixteco.com](http://sabormixteco.com).

Trust in the trio of hospitality vets behind Oaxacan food temple Taqueria Sabor Mixteco and every visit will feel like a homecoming.



**LEFT: Co-owner Apolinar Cervantes helps a diner at Sabor Mixteco.** ABOVE: A trio of tacos from Lime & Cilantro. **BELOW:** From left, Caitlin Simpson, Lisa Goldberg, Stefan Gunther and Scott Vicary enjoy a meal at Lime & Cilantro, which takes the food that chef Danny Chavez was raised on in El Salvador and modernizes it with twists like gochujang in the al pastor tacos.

ma Beverage Co. and chef Danny Wells, an alumnus of the Black Restaurant Group. The team-up is responsible for offerings including a "perfect gimlet"; crispy fried chicken paired with chunky potato salad; puff-pastry-wrapped braised lamb topped with whipped feta cheese; and a "swell po'boy" composed of crackling bread, fried shrimp, shaved onions, and tasty bread and butter pickles. Add in service that Sietsema dubs "spot on, efficient and enthusiastic," and it's easy to see Zinnia sticking around for ages. (Entrées \$22 to \$38.)

### Parkway Deli & Restaurant

8317 Grubb Rd., Silver Spring. [theparkwaydeli.com](http://theparkwaydeli.com).

This 61-year-old monument to eating whatever, whenever speaks Sietsema's love language. "Dinners are served starting at 4 p.m. — my kind of happy hour," he who's out reviewing morning, noon and night writes in his 2022 fall dining guide. His go-to meal is chicken soup featuring tender poultry swimming in herb, golden broth alongside carrots, onions and egg noodles. "Every spoonful has the power of a hug," Sietsema says. Still hungry? Sietsema recommends digging into a hefty Reuben stacked with sauerkraut and sweet Russian dressing, a cabbage roll stuffed with ground beef, slow-roasted turkey with

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE





PHOTOS BY DEB LINDSEY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**Parkway Deli** offers a **Reuben** with eight ounces of corned beef, Swiss cheese, Russian dressing and sauerkraut on grilled rye.

#### FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

cornbread stuffing, or share-worthy carrot cake "that can easily satisfy three forks." (*Entrées \$10 to \$22.*)

#### Shalla Restaurant & Bar

8081 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. [shallarestaurant.com](http://shallarestaurant.com).

Sietsema's first pop-in at this Ethiopian upstart was punctuated by some unforgettable scents. "Clouds of incense, part of Shalla's coffee ceremony, greeted me on my first visit," he writes in his 2022 fall dining guide of a neighborhood restaurant that keeps luring him back. Selling points include "an upgraded version of kitfo" featuring raw beef spiked with butter, cardamom and mitmita flanked by dueling cottage cheese spreads cut with collard greens and cayenne pepper, respectively; juicy rib-eye sweetened with onions; and ground tilapia "jump-started with jalapeños." Thanks for sharing your flavorful secrets, East Africa. (*Entrées \$11 to \$31.*)

#### Taqueria El Cabrito

2514 University Blvd. West, Silver Spring. [taqueriaelcabrito.com](http://taqueriaelcabrito.com).

When nothing but spirited

southern Mexican cuisine will do, Carman suggests making a pit stop at this gas station gem. He hails the family-run eatery, operated by chef/owner Jesus Soto inside a local Exxon mart, for making the most of what it's got on any given day. The most delectable deliverables include a pulse-quickening mole "turbocharged" by a trio of chile peppers (guajillo, poblano and ancho) "making for a nutty combustible sauce" that

spices up the underlying chicken; a deep-fried whole head-on tilapia smothered in diced tomatoes, onions and jalapeños — "So simple, so perfect," he writes; and taco plates heaped with variety meats. "The lengua is so soft and tender, it cuts like butter," Carman says, adding that a companion filled with pork skin is "pure fatty pleasure." (*Entrées \$9 to \$20.*)



Clockwise from left, Marciano Rodrigues, Sarah Rodrigues, Babacar Gueye and Sofya Beye eat at the Senegalese Koite Grill.

#### Fryer's Roadside

12830 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring. [fryersroadside.com](http://fryersroadside.com).

This career-changing pivot that gave some local dreamers the chance to whip up fast-food favorites during the pandemic has further leaned into the edible Americana lane since coming under the umbrella of the Money Muscle BBQ empire. The crunchy french fries, fried chicken and soft serve ice cream that initially drew Carman in have now been joined by peppery beef brisket (more on that in a sec), tender pork ribs, deep-fried Oreos and more. A well-balanced chicken sandwich summons spicy bird cooled by creamy coleslaw and crisp pickle chips. The smoked brisket, while enjoyable on its own, really punches up a lightly scorched pizza topped with stretchy mozzarella, sweet peppers and zesty South Carolina-style barbecue sauce. Still have room? Sprinkle-covered twist cones are a familiar sight on the enclosed patio. But extra-thick milkshakes — including one that was as peanut buttery as the candy cups chocoholics unapologetically wolf down every Halloween — conjure their own killer brain freeze. (*Entrées \$9 to \$42.*)

#### Koite Grill

8626 Colesville Rd., Silver Spring. [instagram.com/koitegrill](http://instagram.com/koitegrill).

Leave it to Carman to sniff out a Senegalese barbecue joint doing its thing right under our noses. This family-run restaurant, which specializes in a West African grilling tradition dubbed dibi, grew out of the Koite clan's experience butchering meat in Langley Park. Once customers caught wind of the flame-licked feasts Omar Koite forged from the unwanted scraps, a must-try menu was born. Carman considers the lamb dibi a "firm and meaty" masterpiece that's best when ripped right from the bone. "Or dunk bites into the accompanying mustard sauce, with its blast of habanero, and feel the vinegar and chile pepper ricochet across your palate," he writes. Explorers are urged to try beef skewers "ignited with a pepper-heavy kankankan spice blend"; a marinated chicken bathed in garlic, black pepper and tomato paste; or a weekend-only special of stuffed fish drenched in a tomato-tamarind sauce. (*Entrées \$15 to \$40.*)



ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM



MILDRED BALDWIN/SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM



ISAMU NOGUCHI FOUNDATION AND GARDEN MUSEUM



SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** "Skywatcher" (circa 1948, marble), by Marion Perkins; "My Arizona" (1943, fiberglass and plexiglass), by Isamu Noguchi; "Man on Fire" (1969, fiberglass in acrylic urethane resin on painted wood fiberboard base), by Luis Jiménez; and "The Wounded Scout, a Friend in the Swamp" (patented 1864, plaster with oil paint and iron armature), by John Rogers.

#### SCULPTURE FROM 9

guese, Spanish and Taino (Indigenous Caribbean). It combines the actual and the symbolic, the artist's physical existence and his cultural history.

Sculptors have always depicted the human form, although sometimes the subjects are legendary, mythical or supernatural. Rendered in stone or metal, representational statues make a claim on space in the world just like a flesh-and-bone being. Sculpture "has close ties to the body," note curators Karen Lemmey, Tobias Wofford and Grace Yasumura in their introduction to the show's catalogue.

Although linked by their corporeal quality, Powers's and Lugo's artworks illustrate a notable change in artistic emphasis over the past two centuries. The first portrays an exemplary figure and is an allegory of forbearance and even hope. The second depicts a large-bellied man, hardly an idealized form, and takes its power from being entirely personal. The heroic has yielded to the everyday.

That doesn't mean Lugo's work is merely autobiographical while Powers's is universal — although many 19th-century viewers might have seen "The Greek Slave" that way. This show places Powers's sculpture in a much more diverse context than the one in which it was made and originally seen. One of the curators' essential arguments is that neoclassical American art was far from comprehensive. It was modeled exclusively on European precedents and valued an essential quality of the Italian marble Powers employed: whiteness.

The show includes three Powers's works, although not the most famous one held in Washington. (That's a larger version of "The Greek Slave," originally owned by the Corcoran Gallery of Art and now the property of the National Gallery of Art.) These embody artistic premises that the show's more recent artists question or entirely reject. But they aren't the only such pieces on display. Many of the earlier sculptures represent Native American or Black subjects in ways that were once considered realistic but now appear stereotypical and at best patronizing. Ferdinand Pettrich's 1856 "The Dying Tecumseh" shoehorns the fate of the Native American resistance leader, killed by U.S. troops, into the scenario of an ancient statue of a Celtic warrior slain by Romans. John Rogers's "The Wounded Scout, a Friend in the Swamp" is a sentimental Civil War vignette in which a runaway enslaved person risks his getaway to assist a wounded Union soldier.

The narratives shift dramatically in the 20th century, when more of the artists who depict minority groups are minorities themselves. California-born Japanese American artist Isamu Noguchi abstracts the Arizona landscape to conjure the period he spent in a U.S. detention camp during World War II. Marion Perkins, a Black artist, depicts a sky-watching figure in homage to the victims of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Luis Jiménez, whose monumental sculpture of a Mexican American cowboy has long stood outside the museum's north entrance, stylizes the figure of an Aztec ruler, tortured with fire by Mexico's Spanish conquerors, into a sort of blazing superhero.

The exhibition doesn't challenge only the themes and attitudes that underlie 19th-century American sculpture in marble and bronze. It questions marble and bronze themselves. Some of the selected artists work on a traditionally epic scale, but with unexpected materials. Jiménez employs fiberglass, and Titus Kaphar inverts a foundational American tale by charring into wood the concave silhouette of George Washington on horseback. Other contributors use traditional craft materials, including fabric, glass or ceramics, or assemble found objects such as the racist "Mammy" figurine that Betye Saar recontextualizes in "The Liberation of Aunt Jemima."

Sweeping and unapologetically didactic, "The Shape of Power" is a lot to take in. But the show, which is largely drawn from the museum's holdings, just begins to explore the country's largest collection of American sculpture. Within the museum's stately store-rooms must be many more tales to be told, retold or reinterpreted, some of them perhaps for the first time.



CARMEN CHAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

# 10 top shows hitting local stages in 2025

BY THOMAS FLOYD

Ever eclectic, the D.C. theater scene in the coming year includes a pair of new musicals with Broadway aspirations; star power in sturdy standbys; and, of course, political theater (but not the kind on Capitol Hill). Here are 10 area shows to check out in 2025.

## ‘Downstate’

Could child abusers deserve your empathy? That's the question at the core of Pulitzer Prize winner Bruce Norris's play, set in a downstate Illinois group home for sex offenders who have completed their prison sentences and are stepping back into an unfor-

New year brings Sarah Silverman, ‘Schmigadoon!’, Synetic’s take on a Charlie Chaplin film and more

giving society. Studio Theatre Artistic Director David Muse oversees the D.C. premiere of a barn burner that played to rave reviews during its 2018 Chicago premiere and 2022 off-Broadway run.

*Wednesday-Feb. 16 at Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St. NW. [studiotheatre.org](http://studiotheatre.org).*

## ‘Guac’

Manuel Oliver, the father of Parkland, Florida, shooting victim Joaquin Oliver, performs this one-man show (co-written with

James Clements) about processing grief, advocating for gun control and considering the dark side of the American immigrant experience. Having toured the show around the country since its 2019 debut, Oliver returns to the city where he was arrested in 2023 after disrupting a congressional hearing on gun regulations.

*Jan. 25-Feb. 16 at Woolly Mammoth Theatre, 641 D St. NW. [woollymammoth.net](http://woollymammoth.net).*

## ‘Schmigadoon!’

Did someone say corn pud-

din’?! The Kennedy Center’s Broadway Center Stage series, which typically assembles star-studded casts for limited-run revivals, is tackling a stage adaptation of the Apple TV Plus musical series as its first original work. The production adapts the first season of the canceled-too-soon streaming series, in which a bickering couple stumble into a fantastical town whose denizens communicate via golden age show tunes. Series co-creator and Emmy winner Cinco Paul wrote the book, music and lyrics for the stage show, whose ensemble of Broadway standouts includes Alex Brightman, Sara Chase, Isabelle McCalla, Ryan Vasquez and Ann Harada.

**Comedian and actress Sarah Silverman’s memoir gets the musical treatment at Arena Stage, which will put on “The Bedwetter” starting Feb. 4.**

*Jan. 31-Feb. 9 at the Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW. [kennedy-center.org](http://kennedy-center.org).*

## ‘The Bedwetter’

“Schmigadoon!” isn’t the only Broadway-aimed musical headed to D.C. this winter. After helping steer “Next to Normal,” “Dear Evan Hansen” and “Swept Away” to New York, Arena Stage mounts the second production of this

SEE THEATER ON 15



RICH SOUBLET II

**THEATER FROM 14**

musical take on Sarah Silverman's 2010 memoir (following 2022's off-Broadway premiere). "Prayer for the French Republic" playwright Joshua Harmon cowrote the libretto with Silverman, who collaborated with Fountains of Wayne's Adam Schlesinger on the songs before his 2020 death (after which David Yazbek, the "Band's Visit" and "Dead Outlaw" composer, came on board). And belter extraordinaire Shoshana Bean, fresh off her Tony-nominated turn in "Hell's Kitchen," headlines the cast.

*Feb. 4-March 16 at Arena Stage, 1101 Sixth St. SW. arenastage.org.*

**'Waitress'**

Olney Theatre Center sure

knows how to deliver a crowd-pleaser, and it has another delicious offering on the menu with "Waitress." A musical adaptation of Adrienne Shelly's 2007 dramedy film — about a small-town baker who romances her obstetrician while stuck in a miserable marriage — the stage show rode Sara Bareilles's sweet and savory score to a five-year Broadway run. Now, Tony-nominated director Marcia Milgrom Dodge takes the reins for a new staging starring YouTube personality Malinda, a Helen Hayes Award winner for Olney's 2019 production of "Once."

*Feb. 13-March 30 at Olney Theatre Center, 2001 Olney Sandy Spring Rd., Olney, Maryland. olneytheatre.org.*

**'The Immigrant'**

Paata and Irina Tsikurishvili, Synetic Theater's husband-and-wife co-founders, created this new adaptation of the beloved 1917 silent film starring Charlie Chaplin, in which an immigrant traverses the Atlantic before navigating a slew of shenanigans stateside. It's a poignant choice for the Tsikurishvili, Georgian immigrants who have brought vaudevillian humor, loose-limbed athletics and worldly perspective to D.C.-area stages for the better part of three decades.

*March 14-23 at Thomas Jefferson Theatre, 125 S Old Glebe Rd., Arlington, Virginia. synetictheater.org.*

**'Uncle Vanya'**

Amid an avalanche of "Uncle

Vanya" interpretations — Steve Carell led a Broadway revival last year, and Andrew Scott is taking his one-man version off-Broadway this spring — Shakespeare Theatre Company is checking the Chekhov box with its own production starring "Downton Abbey's" Hugh Bonneville. Simon Godwin, the Shakespeare Theatre head who helmed last season's Ralph Fiennes-starring "Macbeth," directs Conor McPherson's adaptation of the 19th-century staple, about a cynical man fading into middle-aged malaise while managing his brother-in-law's estate.

*March 30-April 20 at Shakespeare Theatre Company's Harman Hall, 610 F St. NW. shakespearetheatre.org.*

**"The Untitled Unauthorized Hunter S. Thompson Musical"** premiered in 2023 at San Diego's La Jolla Playhouse, starring Gabriel Ebert, center. Next, the bio-musical will headline a tantalizing slate of shows at Signature Theatre.

**'Bad Books'**

The latest play from "Suits" writer Sharyn Rothstein gets its world premiere as part of the National Capital New Play Festival. Round House Theatre Artistic Director Ryan Rilette oversees the book-banning drama about a teen assigned a "controversial" text and a mother who confronts a local librarian about the reading material. But the hook here is the impeccable casting: The production features Kate Eastwood Norris and Holly Twyford, the revered D.C. actresses fresh off their triumphant turns together in "Summer, 1976" at Studio Theatre.

*April 2-27 at Round House Theatre, 4545 East-West Hwy., Bethesda, Maryland. roundhousetheatre.org.*

**'The Inheritance'**

Matthew López penned this sweeping drama that claimed best play honors at the 2019 Olivier Awards for its West End run and at the pandemic-delayed 2021 Tonys for its Broadway transfer. Inspired by E.M. Forster's "Howards End," the two-part, seven-hour epic follows three generations of gay men in New York City as they map out their lives decades after the height of the AIDS epidemic. Ford's Theatre veteran José Carrasquillo directs this new production of the play, which is timed to coincide with WorldPride 2025 in Washington.

*May at Ford's Theatre, 511 10th St. NW. fords.org.*

**'The Untitled Unauthorized Hunter S. Thompson Musical'**

Signature Theatre's tantalizing slate — also including the tense two-hander "Job" and revivals of "In the Heights" and "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" — is headlined by this bio-musical, which premiered in 2023 at San Diego's La Jolla Playhouse. Featuring a score by "Be More Chill" composer Joe Iconis and direction from Tony winner Christopher Ashley ("Come From Away"), the production endeavors to capture Thompson's gonzo journalistic spirit with a rollicking ride through the second half of the 20th century.

*June 3-July 13 at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington, Virginia. sigtheatre.org.*

**the *GUIDE* to the Lively Arts**

SHOW NAME	DATES & TIMES	DESCRIPTION	DETAILS	PRICE	ADDITIONAL	
<b>★ FEATURED LISTING ★</b>						
	<b>91st Annual International Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature</b>	Nov. 23, 2024 thru Jan. 11, 2025 Tues thru Fri 12-4 Sat 10-3 Closed between Christmas & New Year's Day	The Miniature Painters, Sculptors & Gravers Society of Washington, DC (MPSGS) presents an international exhibition of over 600 amazing miniature works of fine art. * Artworks viewable online at <a href="http://mpsgs.org">mpsgs.org</a>	<b>Venue: Strathmore Mansion</b> 10701 Rockville Pike North Bethesda, MD 20852 <a href="http://strathmore.org/mansion">strathmore.org/mansion</a>	Free Admission	Purchase at exhibition or call gift shop 301-581-5175 Contact: Nancy Still <a href="mailto:mpsgs100@gmail.com">mpsgs100@gmail.com</a>
<b>MUSIC - ORCHESTRAL</b>						
	<b>AMAZING GRACE: Fire &amp; Light</b> with Jerod Tate	January 13, 7:30pm	This annual new year's concert celebrates the universal expression of the human spirit through music, inviting a living composer to curate a concert designed to uplift and inspire. Join us as we welcome Native American composer Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate, who will guide us on a journey of fire and light.	<b>Terrace Theater</b> The Kennedy Center 202-467-4600 <a href="http://www.postclassical.com">www.postclassical.com</a>	Starting at \$45	Featuring Javier Arrey, and works by Tate, Barber, and Prokofiev.
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Nickel Boys ★★★★



ORION PICTURES/AMAZON MGM STUDIOS

# A gorgeous film about an ugly chapter

RaMell Ross daringly adapts Pulitzer-winning novel

BY TY BURR

In "Nickel Boys," RaMell Ross reinvents the cinema as a language of hope. Hope for what? Survival, connection, bearing witness to historical crimes, the sacrament of peering into another person's soul. In a season of awards-conscious trauma dramas, a culture's necessary medicines, this one floats like poetry and stings like a slap. It is one of the most visually and sonically gorgeous movies of the year, and it is also a tragedy that left me weeping for two men, this country and the world.

Starting in 2012, investigators exhumed more than 50 unmarked graves and identified nearly 100 deaths at the Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys, a reform institution in the Florida Panhandle that operated from 1900 to 2011. By far the majority of the bodies were of young Black

men; former "students" have testified over the years to beatings, whippings, rapes and killings, with some victims as young as 9.

In 2019, "The Underground Railroad" author Colson Whitehead fictionalized the Dozier School into Nickel Academy for his novel "The Nickel Boys." It won the Pulitzer Prize in 2020. Now comes a film version of the book, directed and written (with Joslyn Barnes) by Ross, whose only previous feature is the luminous 2018 documentary "Hale County This Morning, This Evening."

Like that film, "Nickel Boys" is impressionistic, as attuned to the natural and human-made worlds as the people who inhabit them. It's a style that evokes the work of director Terrence Malick, though without the studied voice-over reveries of "The Tree of Life" and other Malick movies. Ross knows well the struggles and inequities



L. KASIMU HARRIS/ORION PICTURES/AMAZON MGM STUDIOS

ABOVE: Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor plays Hattie in "Nickel Boys," which uses the camera in unique ways. LEFT: The story unfolds through the eyes of the two main characters: Turner (Brandon Wilson), left, and Elwood (Ethan Herisse).

his young Black men face in a system designed to crush them, but he's incapable of denying them the possibility of transcendence, through one another and the mundane beauty of life itself.

With visual daring, Ross tells this story entirely through the eyes of his two main characters, Elwood (Ethan Herisse) — a bright young man hitchhiking to college and a promising future when he makes the mistake of getting into a stolen car — and Turner (Brandon Wilson), who becomes Elwood's friend and protector from the harsh realities of "the Nickel." That "I Am a SEE **NICKEL BOYS** ON 18

## New movies and shows to stream



NETFLIX

Everyone's favorite inventor-dog duo returns in *"Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl."*

BY OLIVIA McCORMACK

**Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl**

In this stop-motion comedy from Aardman Animations, eccentric inventor Wallace and his long-suffering dog Gromit return to the screen in a new adventure that pits them against an old foe.

**Where to watch:** Netflix

**Shifting Gears**

In this sitcom, a widower (Tim Allen) who owns a classic car shop takes in his separated daughter (Kat Dennings) and her teenage children.

**Where to watch:** Thursday on Hulu

**American Primeval**

This limited series set against the backdrop of the American West stars Taylor Kitsch as a traumatized man struggling to overcome his demons and

Betty Gilpin as a woman who needs a guide across the lawless frontier.

**Where to watch:** Thursday on Netflix

**On Call**

"Law and Order's" Dick Wolf is an executive producer on this series that follows a veteran Long Beach, California, police officer (Troian Bellisario) and her rookie partner (Brandon Larracuente) as they respond to calls and deal with the harsh realities of the job.

**Where to watch:** Thursday on Prime Video

**The Pitt**

The staff of an overcrowded and underfunded trauma center in Pittsburgh pushes itself to the limit to save its patients. Each of the 15 episodes follows one hour of Dr. Michael "Robby" Robinavitch's (Noah Wyle) 15-hour shift as chief attendant.

**Where to watch:** Thursday on Max



MATT KENNEDY/NETFLIX

From left, Preston Mota, Taylor Kitsch and Betty Gilpin in *"American Primeval,"* a limited series set in the West.



WARRICK PAGE/MAX

From left, Ned Brower, Patrick Ball, Noah Wyle and Tracy Ifeachor in the Pittsburgh hospital drama *"The Pitt."*



ELIZABETH MORRIS/AMAZON MGM STUDIOS

Brandon Larracuente, left, and Troian Bellisario in *"On Call,"* a series about a veteran police officer and her rookie partner.

**NICKEL BOYS FROM 17**

Camera" subjective-POV approach has been tried over the years — the film noir "Lady in the Lake" (1947), "The Blair Witch Project" (1999) — and it usually turns into a gimmick after 10 minutes. Not here.

The time period is the early 1960s, and Elwood's perspective initially glows with the naive idealism of the civil rights struggle and the proud hopes of his grandmother Hattie (Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor) and Mr. Hill (Jimmie Fails), the high school teacher who has mentored him. He's certain the mistake of his arrest will be realized and he'll be on his way. Instead, he's quickly and brutally reminded by the other teenage inmates and by Mr.

Spencer (Hamish Linklater), the corrupt White administrator of the academy, that he's in the grips of a system that couldn't care less about another Black body.

We've been watching the movie through Elwood's eyes up to this point, but then Ross replays a cafeteria confrontation from Turner's point of view and we see Elwood for the first time. As "Nickel Boys" progresses and the bond between earnest Elwood and cynical Turner deepens, their conversations become a form of intimacy with each other and with us, each man's eyes looking into the camera lens in direct address.

Other characters rarely meet our gaze: a White prison trusty (Fred Hechinger) with whom the

boys resell the academy's supplies to local merchants; a hulking bully (Luke Tennie) who's asked by Mr. Spencer to throw an inter-academy boxing match; the men who accompany Elwood to a cabin called the White House, where an industrial fan can't drown out the sounds and screams of the whippings. Only Hattie embraces Ross's camera and everyone in it with unfailing and abundant love.

Every so often, "Nickel Boys" jumps ahead to future decades — the 1970s, the '90s, the new millennium — in which the back of the head of one of the boys, now grown (Daveed Diggs), fills the screen as he cycles through girlfriends, starts a moving company and is drawn to news reports of the shuttered academy.

One senses we're seeing him from the POV of the other boy's ghost, and certainly there are phantoms among the living. One of the most heartbreakingly scenes in the film comes when this survivor is approached in a bar by a fellow Nickel boy, adult but still broken, and we glimpse like an optical illusion a child that once was.

Both the paradox of "Nickel Boys" and its greatness are embedded in the style of its telling, a direct gaze of experience that can only take so much.

The academy's horrors are glanced at sideways but rarely faced head-on; Jomo Fray's cinematography and the score by Scott Alario and Alex Somers emphasize the perfect radiance of this life we are gifted, but it's a radiance Ross

knows is cursed by human imperfection and by the urge to punish people for the color of their skin. "Nickel Boys" testifies to sins of the past, to rememberings of the present and to reconciliations of the future; to a career taking flight and to ghosts being laid gently to rest. Mostly, though, it says: *Look. Look at this world. Look at the paradise we could have had, could still have, if we only chose to deserve it.*

Ty Burr is the author of the movie recommendation newsletter *Ty Burr's Watch List* at [tyburrswatchlist.com](http://tyburrswatchlist.com).

**PG-13.** At area theaters. Contains thematic material involving racism, some strong language including racial slurs, violent content and smoking. 140 minutes.

# MOVIE DIRECTORY

Friday, January 3 & Saturday, January 4, 2025  
[www.washingtonpost.com/movies](http://www.washingtonpost.com/movies)

## DISTRICT

**AMC Georgetown 14**

3111 K Street NW

**Nickel Boys (PG-13)** CC:

Fri: 1:00-4:10-7:20-10:25;

Sat: 10:15-1:00-4:10-7:20-

10:25

**Moana 2 (PG)** CC: Fri-Sat:

1:30-4:00-6:30-9:00

**Los Frisés (R)** Fri: 1:20-4:00-

6:35-9:25; Sat: 11:40-2:10-

4:10-7:15-9:45

**A Complete Unknown (R)**

CC: Fri-Sat: 1:10-4:20-

7:25-10:35

**Se7en: IMAX Exclusive (R)**

CC: Fri: 7:00; Sat: 4:00

**Sonic the Hedgehog 3 (PG)**

CC: Fri: 2:00-4:35-7:10-9:15;

Sat: 11:25-4:35-7:10-9:15

**Mufasa: The Lion King (PG)**

CC: Fri: 1:15-4:15-7:15-9:30;

Sat: 10:30-1:15-4:15-

7:15-9:30

**Moana 2 (PG)** OC: Sat:

11:00AM

**Sonic the Hedgehog 3 (PG)**

OC: Sat: 2:00

**Alamo Drafthouse Cinema - DC Bryant Street**

630 Rhode Island Avenue NE

**The Fire Inside (PG-13)**

Fri: 6:30

**Angelika**

Pop-Up at Union Market

550 Penn St. NE - Unit E

**Wicked (PG)** Sat: 1:00-

4:30-8:05

**A Complete Unknown (R)** Fri-Sat: 12:30-3:30-

6:30-9:30

**From Ground Zero** Fri-Sat:

7:00

**Wicked (PG)** Fri: 1:00-

4:30-8:00

**Anora (R)** Fri-Sat: 4:00-9:35

**Flow (PG)** Fri-Sat: 12:00-

2:00

**Landmark E Street Cinema**

555 11th Street NW

**Wicked (PG)** Fri-Sat: 12:15-

7:25-9:45

**Nosferatu (R)** Fri-Sat:

12:00-7:00-10:00

**Nickel Boys (PG-13)** Fri-

Sat: 12:30-6:50-9:55

**Anora (R)** Fri-Sat: 1:25-

7:45-10:45

**A Complete Unknown (R)**

Fri-Sat: 1:00-7:15-10:25

**Flow (PG)** Fri-Sat: 1:15-

5:30-9:45

**Queer (R)** Fri-Sat: 6:45-

10:35

**Babygirl (R)** Fri-Sat: 1:35-

7:30-10:15

**Wicked (PG)** Fri-Sat: 3:30

**Nosferatu (R)** Fri-Sat: 3:00

**Nickel Boys (PG-13)** Fri-

Sat: 3:45

**Anora (R)** Fri-Sat: 4:30-

**A Complete Unknown (R)**

Fri-Sat: 4:00

**Queer (R)** Fri-Sat: 3:25

**Babygirl (R)** Fri-Sat: 4:15

**A Complete Unknown (R)**

Fri: 12:30-3:20-6:20-9:10;

Sat: 3:20-6:20-9:10

**The Seed of the Sacred**

Fig (PG-13) Fri-Sat: 12:45-

4:00-7:15

**AMC Academy 8**

6198 Greenbelt Road

**Wicked (PG)** CC: Fri-Sat:

15:10-1:00-4:10-7:10-10:10

**Kraven the Hunter (R)** CC:

Fri-Sat: 9:00

**Sonic the Hedgehog 3 (PG)**

CC: Fri-Sat: 11:30-12:45-

2:15-3:30-5:00-6:15-7:45-

4:00-7:30-9:45

**A Complete Unknown: The**

IMAX Experience (R)

CC: Fri-Sat: 11:00-4:30-7:15-10:00

**Mufasa: The Lion King (PG)**

CC: Fri-Sat: 10:00-1:00-

4:00-6:50-10:00

**Nosferatu (R)** CC: Fri:

4:50-7:30-9:40-10:20

**The Fire Inside (PG-13)** CC:

Fri-Sat: 4:10

**Sonic the Hedgehog 3 (PG)**

CC: Fri-Sat: 11:00-1:00-

4:00-7:15-10:00

**A Complete Unknown (R)**

CC: Fri-Sat: 10:10-1:15-

4:20-10:20

**The Damned (R)** CC:

Fri: 11:45-15:45-10:15

**AMC Columbia 16**

7101 Democracy Boulevard

**Wicked (PG)** CC: Fri-Sat:

12:00-3:15-6:45-10:00

**The Damned (R)** CC: Fri-Sat:

7:10

**Sonic the Hedgehog 3 (PG)**

CC: Fri-Sat: 1:00-3:45-

6:30-9:15

**Mufasa: The Lion King (PG)**

CC: Fri-Sat: 12:10-6:00

**Nosferatu (R)** CC: Fri-Sat:

9:00

**The Fire Inside (PG-13)**

CC: Fri: 9:50-4:40-7:20-

10:05; Sat: 9:45-4:40-7:20-

10:05

**Moana 2 (PG)** CC: Fri:

11:25-2:45-5:15-7:45-9:50

**Nosferatu: The Hunter (R)**

CC: Fri-Sat: 9:30-3:10

**Sonic the Hedgehog 3 (PG)**

CC: Fri-Sat: 9:45-3:30-6:15-

9:00

**A Complete Unknown (R)**

CC: Fri-Sat: 5:15-8:35-10:45

**Sonic the Hedgehog 3 (PG)**

CC: Fri-Sat: 9:45-3:30-6:15-

9:00

**Mufasa: The Lion King (PG)**

CC: Fri-Sat: 12:10-6:00

**Nosferatu (R)** CC: Fri-Sat:

9:00

**The Fire Inside (PG-13)**

CC: Fri-Sat: 9:45-2:15

**Nosferatu: The IMAX**

Experience (R)

CC: Fri-Sat: 9:45-1:30

**A Complete Unknown (R)**

CC: Fri: 9:30AM

**AMC Center Park 8**

4001 Powder Mill Road

**Wicked (PG)** CC: Fri-Sat:

12:00-3:30-7:00-9:45

**Kraven the Hunter (R)** CC:

Fri-Sat: 9:00

**Sonic the Hedgehog 3 (PG)**

CC: Fri-Sat: 11:30-12:45-

2:15-3:30-5:00-6:15-7:45-

4:00-7:30-9:45

**A Complete Unknown: The**

IMAX Experience (R)

CC: Fri-Sat: 11:00-4:30-7:15-

10:00

**Mufasa: The Lion King (PG)**

CC: Fri-Sat: 10:10-11:00-

1:15-2:15-3:30-4:45-5:00-

6:15-7:30-8:45

**Nosferatu (R)** CC: Fri-Sat:

9:00

**The Fire Inside (PG-13)**

CC: Fri-Sat: 11:45-2:15

**Nosferatu: The IMAX**

Experience (R)

CC: Fri-Sat: 11:00-12:30-4:30-

4:45-5:15-6:30-7:45-9:45

**A Complete Unknown (R)**

CC: Fri-Sat: 11:00-12:30-4:30-

4:45-5:15-6:30-7:45-9:45

**Mufasa: The Lion King 3D (PG)** CC: Fri-Sat: 10:30-12:00-1:30-

2:30-4:30-5:30-6:30-7:30-

8:30-9:30

**The Dam**

## ALSO PLAYING

Star ratings are from Post reviews; go to [washingtonpost.com/goingoutguide/movies](http://washingtonpost.com/goingoutguide/movies) for the full-length reviews. For showtimes and directories, see the Movie Directory.

**★★★☆ A COMPLETE UNKNOWN**  
Timothée Chalamet as a young Bob Dylan is excellent, but it's Edward Norton as Pete Seeger who really steals the show. (R, 140 minutes)

**★★★★ ANORA**  
Mikey Madison isn't just another pretty woman in Sean Baker's latest. (R, 139 minutes)

**★★★★ BABYGIRL**  
Halina Reijn's nervy drama casts Nicole Kidman as a CEO of kink. (R, 114 minutes)

**★★★★ THE FIRE INSIDE**  
This is a boxing biopic that packs familiar punches and the right hook. (PG-13, 110 minutes)

**★★★★ FLOW**  
From Latvia, an epic tale of five animals surviving a flood. (PG, 84 minutes)

**★★★★ GLADIATOR II**  
The Ridley Scott sequel is an epic without purpose, fun until it's not, even with Paul Mescal and Denzel Washington aboard. (R, 148 minutes)

**★★★★ MOANA 2**  
With less Dwayne Johnson and no Lin-Manuel Miranda, this uninspired sequel struggles to stay above water. (PG, 100 minutes)

**★★★★ MUFASA: THE LION KING**  
Disney's latest CGI makeover looks great, but is it a good movie? (PG, 120 minutes)

**★★★★ NOSFERATU**  
Director Robert Eggers brings a



AIDAN MONAGHAN / FOCUS FEATURES

Gothic bite to the classic horror story. (R, 133 minutes)

**★★★★ QUEER**  
Is this director Luca Guadagnino's best movie to date? It's certainly among his most beautiful. (R, 135 minutes)

**★★★★ THE SEED OF THE SACRED FIG**

Writer-director Mohammad Rasoulof was forced to flee Iran after secretly filming this political thriller. (PG-13, 168 minutes. In Persian with English subtitles.)

**★★★★ WICKED**

Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande bring Elphaba and Glinda from stage to screen, and the result is over the rainbow. (PG, 160 minutes.)

**Willem Dafoe stars as professor Albin Eberhart von Franz, a vampire hunter, in director Robert Eggers's "Nosferatu."**  
**Dafoe previously played a variation on Nosferatu in the 2000 horror comedy "Shadow of the Vampire."**



Timothée Chalamet stars as a young and electrifying Bob Dylan in "A Complete Unknown."



Kiros (voiced by Mads Mikkelsen) in "Mufasa: The Lion King," a prequel and origin story.



Ryan Destiny, left, as Claressa Shields and Brian Tyree Henry as Jason Crutchfield in the boxing biopic "The Fire Inside."